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ANGOLA

UNITA Claims Government Use of 'Toxic Bomb' on 20 Apr

MB2304074489 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 0500 GMT 23 Apr 89

[Text] A large number of civilians have been seriously wounded by toxic bombs dropped by planes of the Luanda puppet regime in three regions of Bie Province. A communique issued by FALA's chief of general staff on 22 April says between 300 to 1500 GMT on 20 April, a squadron of MiG-23 fighters piloted by Cubans dropped four toxic bombs over the Moxito, Chicundo, and Umpulo regions of Bie Province. A large number of civilians were hit, including Domingos Antonio, Paulo Mucanda, Maria Adelina, Felicia Chilombo, Catarina

Malungo, Victoria Bimbi, Francisca Chilombo, and 4-year-old Manuel Frederico, 2-year-old Catarina Jamba, and 10-year-old Dina Cassinmbe.

These people show symptoms of nausea, fainting, and chest pains. The FALA communique adds that the aforesaid aircraft, piloted by Cubans, were supporting a large-scale military offensive by FAPLA's 21st, 48th, and 76th brigades in several regions of Bie Province. The operation is designed to capture civilians and destroy their crops.

Finally, the communique says that UNITA seeks peace, but the MPLA and Cubans respond by massacring the people with toxic bombs. The communique alerts the international public opinion to this flagrant human rights violation.

**Foreign Minister on 'Relaxation' of East-West
'Confrontation'**

*HK1704051989 Beijing SHIJIE ZHISHI in Chinese
No 7, 1 Apr 89 p 2*

[Report: "The Situation Is Tending Toward Relaxation, Problems Remain Difficult To Solve, and Efforts Should Be Made in the Diplomatic Field—Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen Speaks to Our Reporter"—first paragraph is SHIJIE ZHISHI introduction]

[Text] Earlier this year Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen granted an interview to our reporter during which he analyzed the changes in the international situation (please see issue No. 2 of this magazine). Several days ago, 2 months after the interview, our reporter reinterviewed Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen and listened to his comments on the situation and China's diplomatic work. With his approval, we now publish our record of his remarks.

The communique of a Political Bureau meeting last December pointed out that a change marking the following turning points had taken place in the international situation: The world is shifting from confrontation to dialogue and from tension to relaxation, but factors causing turmoils and tense situations still exist. Developments over the last 2 months have proven that this appraisal is correct.

The relaxation of the international situation does not suggest that contradictions and problems in the world are easy to solve. Relaxation has put an end to some deadlocked situations and alleviated some contradictions, but it is still very difficult to solve complicated problems and some contradictions remain acute. Some hidden contradictions have become very prominent along with the emergence of new contradictions. Thus the world is facing more problems.

We welcome U.S.- Soviet agreements on medium-range missiles and other issues and sincerely hope that they will continue to improve their relations. But we should also be aware that many problems still remain unsolved in Soviet-U.S. dialogue and that it will take time to solve these problems.

Originally, the Eastern and Western political and military blocs were in serious confrontation and the forces within each bloc were closely united; but now confrontation is tending toward relaxation and the forces within each bloc are beginning to relax. Countries from these two blocs are conducting bilateral or multilateral dialogues. As a result, different interests and views are beginning to arise within each bloc. An example is NATO's debate over the modernization of short-range missiles.

With the general background of relaxation, internal contradictions are beginning to crop up in many countries and have given rise to many new problems. These can be found either in Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the Western world or among Third World countries. They are

facing problems related to economic structural reforms, problems resulting from political structural reforms, and problems arising from policies. Some turmoils have also occurred in some countries. Different countries have problems of different natures and the seriousness of their problems is also different. But a common feature is that they are facing more problems than before.

There are some long-standing problems, too. An example is the Middle East issue. Dialogue on this issue has started, which of course constitutes the development of the peace process, but since there is dialogue, there are all sorts of programs, debates, and negotiations. This has caused the reorganization of forces and thus made contradictions more complicated.

Of course, the general trend of dialogue and relaxation in the international situation is favorable to the development of peace and is providing adequate room for the solution of political issues in the world. The easing of military confrontation has enlivened diplomatic activities and political dialogue and is playing a more important role in international politics. Over the last few months there have been frequent political contacts at different levels between different types of countries. We hope that these lively diplomatic activities will continue and help push forward dialogue and relaxation so that the situation will develop in a direction beneficial to world peace. In its diplomatic work, China will undoubtedly make efforts toward this end under the new situation.

**Commentary Sees Superpowers 'Split Apart' on
Arms Issues**

*OW2104185189 Beijing XINHUA in English
0735 GMT 21 Apr 89*

["Roundup: Moscow Upset About Stagnant Soviet-U.S. Ties" (by Zhu Chengjun)—XINHUA headline]

[Excerpts] Moscow, April 21 (XINHUA)—The Kremlin's worry about a possible standstill in Soviet-U.S. relations grows as the Soviet press increased its criticism recently of the Bush administration's strict policy toward Moscow on the Afghan problem, arms cuts and other major issues. [passage omitted]

Earlier, the Kremlin leadership proposed an elimination of all tactical missiles in Europe by the Warsaw Pact and NATO. The idea, however, was rejected by the White House, which in fact intends to modernize these missiles.

As a result, Soviet commentaries said Moscow was puzzled by the U.S. readiness to make the "modernization move" while the Soviet Union is destroying its medium-range nuclear missiles in accordance with a 1988 pact by the two military giants.

The two superpowers have split apart more substantially in talks on cuts in conventional weapons and armed forces from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural Mountains.

The Soviets urged a reduction in jet fighters in the region, but was turned down by the White House which intends to maintain NATO's superiority in the field. The Soviet Union also proposed to focus their talks on an overall curtailment of armed forces in the area, while the U.S. wanted a cut in tanks, artillery and armed vehicles, in which Moscow has an edge in the region. [passage omitted]

Moreover, Moscow published a commentary Tuesday accusing U.S. President George Bush of evasion in a recent speech about the U.S.-Soviet talks on nuclear and space armaments.

Though Moscow was discouraged with the Bush administration's discontinuation of former President Ronald Reagan's policy, Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev still urged in a Wednesday meeting with a U.S. trade union leader to continue dialogues between the two nations and asked the United States to treasure the past accomplishments of their relations.

China To Participate in Baghdad Arms Fair
OW2304002089 Beijing XINHUA in English
2350 GMT 22 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, April 22 (XINHUA)—The first Baghdad International Arms Fair will open here on April 28 to display military products from 28 countries.

'Various types of Iraqi missiles, guns, and defense equipment will be on show to illustrate our country's capability of military production,' General Amer Muhammad Rasheed Saadi, under-secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Military Production, said at a press conference here today.

More than 120 companies from 28 Arab and non-Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, China, the Soviet Union, Britain and Federal Germany, will participate in the five-day fair, the largest one in the Middle East, Saadi added.

The Soviet Union has recently declared it will take part in the fair, he noted. But he did not disclose why the decision was made so late. The Soviet Union was one of the major states that provided Iraq with arms during the eight-year Gulf war.

On the political significance of the fair, General Saadi said that the fair, to be held eight months after the end of Iran-Iraq War, will manifest Iraq's determination to maintain peace and security in this sensitive region and to improve its self-defense capability.

Observers here believed that the fair will enable Iraq to make use of the military expertise of other countries and expand cooperation with them.

JAPAN

UN-Sponsored Disarmament Meeting Held in Kyoto

Delegates' Speeches Reported

OW2104102189 Tokyo KYODO in English
0757 GMT 21 Apr 89

[By Mari Adachi]

[Text] Kyoto, April 21 KYODO—Heated discussions on disarmament and security were conducted at the last plenary session of the U.N. disarmament meeting in Kyoto on Friday.

Vladmir Petrovskiy, Soviet deputy foreign minister, said that a switch from being overly armed to reasonable sufficiency [as received] was now taking place.

Armed forces should be limited to clearly defined defense needs, Petrovskiy said, and confirmed that the Soviet Union will cut its military budget by 14.2 percent and its output of armaments and military equipment by 19.5 percent in 1989-1990.

He said steps are being taken to convert military production in the Soviet Union for civilian needs. Forty percent of military production will be converted to civilian purposes this year, aiming to convert 60 percent by the year 1995.

Maynard Glitman, U.S. ambassador to Belgium, stressed, however, that military deterrence was necessary to create a climate for disarmament and to assure security.

He said that the suggestion that moral and legal deterrence should be implemented instead of military and nuclear deterrence was impractical and would only increase the dangers of war.

Practical approaches to security and disarmament are necessary, Glitman said. He also said key issues immediately threatening security should be approached first, and that disarmament should be carried out step-by-step.

Both agreed, however, that arms control was not the only important issue in international relations.

Arms are symptoms of underlying tensions and the root causes of such tensions must be dealt with, Glitman said.

Petrovskiy said an urgent need for a comprehensive approach to international peace and security is needed not only in the military, but in the political, environmental, economic and humanitarian areas.

He also stressed that multilateral and bilateral efforts should support each other in shifting the emphasis of states' security from military to other means.

Aarno Karhilo, Finnish undersecretary of state, said that durable security requires a network of international cooperation.

He expressed his expectations in the 40-nation Geneva conference on chemical weapons, and said his country has contributed the results of 17 years of research in verification methods for these weapons.

Karhilo said such methods lay a basis for confidence-building and that trust can be created through consistent confidence-building based on realities.

He lauded the U.N. for its contribution to solving regional conflicts, and said similar actions were possible for disarmament.

All countries should contribute to creating a more "rational world order" in which a lower level of armaments leads to increased security, he said.

Tessa Solesby, leader of the British delegation to the U.N. disarmament conference, said that the lowest possible level of armaments should be sought in the disarmament process.

This process should be conducted symmetrically based on a commonality of interest, with no state holding an advantage over another, she said.

Prof. Yoshikazu Sakamoto, a Japanese expert on disarmament, said that the basic standard must be shifted from national security to common security, and emphasized the necessity of disarmament for common and global security.

Citizen's movements and public opinion also play an important role in maintaining a nonnuclear policy, and policymakers should assure the freedom of information to the public, the professor of international law at Meiji Gakuin University said.

The 89 participants from 31 countries separated into working groups Friday afternoon to discuss specific issues such as nuclear test ban and verification, nonproliferation of nuclear, chemical, and other weapons and confidence-building measures.

The four-day session will close on Saturday with reports from working groups and a closing ceremony.

USSR's Petrovskiy Speaks to Press

OW2104103289 Tokyo KYODO in English
0950 GMT 21 Apr 89

[By Mari Adachi]

[Text] Kyoto, April 21 KYODO—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy said Friday that the Soviet Union was ready to recognize international and public opinion in the area of disarmament negotiations.

The Soviet Union is willing to transfer sovereignty in disarmament decision-making to the United Nations which would have legislative power to outlaw war, he said at a press conference held in connection with the U.N. disarmament conference in Kyoto.

He also suggested that a second chamber be established in the United Nations for the voicing of public opinion, saying nonprofessional views should be taken note of.

The on-going conference is important in helping develop a new, close relationship between government and the public, he said.

Petrovskiy stressed the Soviet aim of a nuclear-free world and said the Soviet Union was ready to take steps for drastic reductions in chemical weapons and conventional arms as well.

In the plenary meeting on security and disarmament Friday morning, his opinions were in sharp contrast to those of Maynard Glitman, U.S. ambassador to Belgium, who maintained that military deterrence was necessary to avert war and that the United States was aiming for reduction of nuclear arms, rather than a complete ban.

Japan, which hosted the disarmament conference for the first time, has provided a good example of how a country can achieve economic development if military spending is limited, Petrovskiy said.

NORTH KOREA

Commentary Condemns Bush's SDI Policy

SK2104054489 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0450 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Text] Pyongyang April 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a signed commentary hits out at the rignmarole of Bush that the United States and its allies must modernize "strategic armed forces" and conventional armament and push ahead with the "Strategic Defense Initiative," instead of reducing arms, and thus maintain "U.S. strategic predominance."

Noting that although Bush spun out a string of balderdash in an effort to describe himself as an "apostle of peace," it was a deception and hypocrisy, the news analyst says his administration, just like the preceding

one, is taking the road of adventure against the world revolutionary forces while attaching top priority importance to the line of thermonuclear war.

How maliciously Bush is challenging the desire of mankind for peace finds its salient expression in his Korea policy, the news analyst says, and goes on:

The U.S. imperialists are resorting to the "two Koreas" plot to provide a political guarantee of keeping hold on South Korea as a colony and a military base for aggression, ignoring all our efforts for the removal of the military confrontation and the relaxation of the tension on the Korean peninsula.

This tells that the line of war and confrontation is the fundamental stand taken by the U.S. imperialists toward Korea.

Loud-mouthed as they are about "moderateness," "detente" and "cooperation" in the guise of "peace," they are, in actuality, seeking war and aggravation of the tensions and running amok in their thorough-paced anti-communist, anti-socialist offensive.

No matter what misfortunes and hardships others may undergo, living in a state of division, and no matter what nuclear holocaust mankind may incur, they will work only to attain their aggressive purposes. This is, indeed, a wolfish nature.

If the U.S. imperialists insolently continue taking the road to aggression and war, it will only result in precipitating their own destruction, stresses the news analyst.

NEW ZEALAND

Land Force Commander on Expulsion From ANZUS

BK0304073089 Melbourne Overseas Service
in English 0500 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] A top New Zealand military official has said his country's exclusion from the ANZUS [Australian, New Zealand, United States] defense alliance with Australia and the United States has indirectly disadvantaged a number of small South Pacific nations.

The commander of New Zealand land force, Brigadier Lyle Dartman, has said it was no secret that his country has been left out on intelligence, military experience, and new technologies since 1984 when it was forced out of the ANZUS by the United States. He was speaking in Sydney at a military seminar attended by delegates from 25 regional countries.

Brigadier Dartman said the Southwest Pacific had not been affected directly by New Zealand's expulsion from ANZUS, but he said Wellington was now less able to transfer military experience and technology to its smaller neighbors. He denied that New Zealand armed forces

were lobbying the government to revoke its ban on nuclear vessels which led to the split up in ANZUS. The brigadier said the government had acknowledged the defense deficiencies resulting from its policy.

U.S. Officials 'Unlikely' To Meet Lange Due to Nuclear Ships Policy

*BK0404083489 Melbourne Overseas Service
in English 0500 GMT 4 Apr 89*

[Text] New Zealand's prime minister, Mr David Lange, is to visit the United States later this month. But Mr Lange has admitted that it is unlikely anyone from the

Bush administration will agree to talk to him due to his government's 1985 ban on nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed ships visiting New Zealand. Following the ban, the United States (?forced) New Zealand out of the ANZUS military alliance which also includes Australia.

During his American visit Mr Lange will meet leading business and political officials outside the Bush administration and deliver a foreign policy speech at Yale University.

Mr Lange will also visit Canada where he is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Mulroney.

INTRABLOC AFFAIRS

Further on Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Meeting in Berlin

Polish Foreign Minister Speaks

LD1104224489 Warsaw PAP in English
2106 GMT 11 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin, April 11—The foreign ministers' committee of the states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty started two-day meeting here Monday. The Polish delegation is headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Tadeusz Olechowski.

GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer gave a reception tonight in honour of the delegates who were addressed by the host and Tadeusz Olechowski, the latter taking the floor on behalf of the remaining delegations. Following are excerpts from Olechowski's speech:

"Phenomena occurring in the world and favourable tendencies in the East-West dialogue necessitate a deep re-appraisal of international developments and a new approach to the resolution of global and regional problems.

"In this context I want to stress the significance of this meeting. Its documents are closely related to the extremely essential phase of the CSCE process, to the start in Vienna of the negotiations of 23 Warsaw Treaty and NATO states on conventional forces reduction in Europe and of the negotiations of 35 CSCE nations on confidence and security building measures in Europe.

"All our countries are interested in quick agreements. We do not confine ourselves to political declarations. The allied states made unilateral decisions on conventional arms reductions which will surely be conducive to a progress in the Vienna negotiations.

"The first echoes from these negotiations arouse optimism, hence one can assume that we have initiated a new phase in the process of building foundations for the common European home of ours.

"We are witnessing and participating in deep transformations in socialist states which seek new roads and solutions to speed up their socio-political development and democratization of political life. This gives a fresh impetus to the dynamic of mutual relations, permits to solve all, no matter how difficult problems, in the spirit of partnership and equality of allies.

"This year will see the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. The reflection over the causes, development and aftermath of that most atrocious of all wars must be a constant momento to the nations of the world and an impulse to redouble efforts for the building of a world without wars and violence."

Comments on Meeting

LD1204230789 Warsaw PAP in English
2145 GMT 12 Apr 89

[BY PAP correspondent Edmund Kieszkowski]

[Text] Berlin, April 12—Chairman of the Polish delegation to the Berlin session of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of States—Parties to the Warsaw Treaty Tadeusz Olechowski met with Polish newsmen accredited in the GDR to brief them on the results of the two-day discussions and the adopted documents.

The Polish foreign minister stated that the discussions had been dominated by European issues, which, according to him, was related to the Vienna meeting concluded early this year whose results had an impact on the dynamics of detente processes on the European continent.

Speaking about the Warsaw Treaty states' joint stance expressed in a final communique and two documents, Olechowski underlined the great importance of the Berlin meeting for Poland.

In this context he pointed to proposals forwarded by states—parties to the Warsaw Treaty to begin in the nearest future separate negotiations with NATO member states on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. They would supplement and support the process of reducing military confrontation between both blocs, he said.

One can say the same about the appeal "for a world without wars" co-initiated by Poland, the minister stated. For Poland particularly meaningful is a statement included in the appeal to the effect that a precondition for a lasting and stable peace order in Europe is all states' deep respect for the existing territorial-political realities, Olechowski said.

In reply to questions on bilateral issues discussed during his stay here, including problems related to the delimitation of waters in the Pomeranian Bay, the minister stated that the recent time had seen an essential rapprochement of both countries' stands in this respect.

One can even speak about a feasible date of a visit to Poland by GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer to sign a proper agreement satisfactory for both sides.

Polish Foreign Ministry Spokesman

LD1304183289 Warsaw PAP in English
1655 GMT 13 Apr 89

["Statement of Foreign Ministry's Spokesman"—PAP headline]

[Text] Warsaw, April 13—Stefan Staniszewski, the press spokesman of the minister of foreign affairs, presented a statement to PAP on the meeting of the committee of the foreign affairs ministers of states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty held in Berlin on April 11-12. The statement reads:

Minister Tadeusz Olechowski described the meeting in Berlin as interesting and based on the common conviction of its participants about the need to take opportunity of the nowadays favourable international atmosphere for the good of the countries of our community and in the interest of all of Europe.

I wish to stress that in the statement on nuclear battlefield weapons in Europe adopted in Berlin by the committee of the ministers of foreign affairs of states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty, the socialist states gave another expression of their readiness to make concrete efforts for disarmament. They pointed out that the implementation of NATO's plans on the modernization of battlefield nuclear weapons would have a destabilizing impact on the military-strategic situation in Europe and would contradict the disarmament efforts on our continent.

The Warsaw Treaty countries proposed that NATO countries open a separate forum of negotiations in the nearest future on reducing and next eliminating battlefield nuclear weapons from Europe. This would in fact be a "third zero option" modelled after the earlier agreement between the USSR and the United States on eliminating medium and shorter range missiles. Its implementation would also contribute to progress on the road to deep reductions of strategic nuclear arms and draw closer the prospect of common and full liquidation of nuclear weapons.

Elimination of battlefield missiles would lead to military balance in Europe at a lower level, without the element of fear. It would also be conducive to the countries' basing their defence on the principle of rational sufficiency.

We expect NATO member states—despite the initially unfavourable reactions—to approach this proposal of the Warsaw Treaty in a constructive manner at its nearest meeting in London.

The committee of foreign affairs ministers of states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty also adopted an appeal 'For a World Without Wars' in connection with the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of World War Two falling this year.

Stressing that this war, the most tragic in the history of mankind, began with the armed invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany in September 1939, the ministers agreed that in current conditions war cannot be a practical means of solving conflicts or disputed international problems.

While preparing for the official observances of the 50th anniversary of the tragic September, we are bearing in mind the future, actively participating in all the efforts of states and nations aimed at securing a peaceful future for mankind. We are happy at the fact that allied socialist states with which we create a common front of the

defence of peace, are, alongside countries of the great anti-Nazi coalition, among the states marking the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the war.

GDR's Fischer on Pact Documents

LD1204195489 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1537 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer announced at an international news conference in Berlin this afternoon that the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact member states adopted important documents at the conclusion of their committee session in Berlin. Apart from the communique on the session, these documents include an appeal by the foreign ministers "for a world without war" and a "statement by the Warsaw Pact member states on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe."

In a statement, the minister pointed out that the third important session of the Warsaw Pact states had thus taken place in the GDR capital. In May 1987, the Political Consultative Committee adopted the document on the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member states. It openly outlined principles of its military doctrine and proposed consultations to the NATO member states on comparing military concepts and doctrines. In December of the same year, the general secretaries and first secretaries of the Central Committee of the fraternal parties of the Warsaw Pact praised the conclusion of the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range missiles here and called for work to be continued energetically for further disarmament agreements.

With the documents adopted in Berlin, the socialist defense alliance augmented with an important element its negotiating offer for disarmament in all weapons types possessed by NATO and the Warsaw Pact in their stockpiles. This session, he added, noted progress in the strengthening of peace and on the path to real disarmament, as well as in the reduction of confrontation. "However, in our view this development is not running linearly or without contradictions. I mention NATO's adherence to its claim that there was a threat from the East."

Oskar Fischer cited the clinging to the doctrine of nuclear deterrence, the intensification of efforts in all spheres of arming to compensate qualitatively for that which was no longer available, for example as a result of the INF Treaty, and the unconcealed striving to differentiate between the socialist countries in order to interfere in their internal affairs. The GDR foreign minister said that the foreign ministers supported the intensification of the political dialogue on key issues of international developments and practiced this daily. The committee believed that the efforts for the continuation of the disarmament process must be accelerated. It supported a higher level of security and cooperation in Europe. In order to further reduce the danger of war and

thus of the destruction of mankind, new paths had to be followed. Such a path would be the reduction and finally the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons, which were stationed in and around Europe in large numbers, but which so far had been untouched by all negotiations.

Just retaining these tactical nuclear weapons would put a brake on disarmament in Europe; their modernization or further increase would destabilize the strategic military situation in Europe and undermine what has already been achieved. The committee has proposed a start in the near future to separate negotiations between the members of both alliances on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, including the nuclear components of the dual capability systems and means [mittel]. We are prepared, Oskar Fischer said, to conduct consultations in the very near future on preparations, the mandate, the place of negotiations, the circle of participants, the stages of the elimination of the tactical nuclear weapons, and other related questions. All this, of course, under strict international supervision.

As a result of the session of the alliance's foreign ministers' meeting, he was able to state unequivocally, that the Warsaw Pact member states expect a constructive response to their proposals and they are, at the same time, willing to examine all ideas and proposals aimed at strengthening stability and security at ever lower military levels, are in line with the principles of equality and undiminished security of each side, and guarantee an effective verification of the fulfillment of the agreements or of what has been agreed.

The fact that the foreign ministers have met in Berlin a few weeks before the 50th anniversary of the unleashing of World War II by German fascism was an occasion for a separate appeal. The fundamental conditions for upholding a permanent, stable European peace order remained strict respect for the existing territorial and political realities, all principles of the UN Charter, the stipulations of the Helsinki Final Act, and other universally recognized norms of international relations by all states. All manifestations of revanchism, chauvinism, and nationalism, all forms of enmity between peoples, and attempts to violate the territorial integrity of states must be appropriately rebuffed.

In this connection I cannot conceal the fact, the minister continued, that we are extremely concerned about the growing right-wing radical and neo-Nazi trends in the FRG and Berlin, in whatever form they manifest themselves. Only a few hundred meters from our venue, deputies of the neo-Nazi Republican Party recently entered the House of Representatives. The foreign ministers of the member states underline here in Berlin the historic responsibility of the two German states that war will never again be unleashed from German soil and fully and completely support the GDR's policy which has been directed toward this aim since its founding.

The ministers, he added, expressed their satisfaction with the recent efforts to open up paths to settle regional conflicts. In this connection they particularly praised the initiatives introduced under the leadership of the UN secretary general. In view of the—in some areas—decades of conflicts and very contradictory interests of the conflicting parties, these efforts require a sense of realism and high degree of patience. This in particular placed a great responsibility on all involved states to fulfill commitments entered into, to exercise restraint, and to avoid renewed flaring up of fighting at any cost.

Oskar Fischer concluded: With their documents and decisions, the Berlin session of the foreign ministers' committee is complying with the decisions adopted by the Warsaw meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in July of last year. The goal and urgent tasks remained further steps for a radical reduction of military capacities while maintaining parity and equal security.

CSSR's Johanes Assesses Pact Session

LD1204192889 Prague CTK in English
1731 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin April 12 (CTK)—“The session had an open, matter-of-fact and working character, it reflected the elements of the new style of cooperation between the Warsaw Treaty member states and an increased emphasis on practical solution of problems,” Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes told CTK here today.

Speaking at the close of a two-day session of the Warsaw Treaty member states' foreign ministers, Jaromir Johanes pointed out that they concentrated on the present state and prospects of the Helsinki process which we understand as an irreplaceable mechanism making it possible to achieve a high level of cooperation of the two social systems in Europe. Views were exchanged on the further development of political dialogue, deepening of military detente and all-round cooperation in Europe.

Recalling that the session paid special attention to the recently opened talks on conventional armed forces in Europe and on measures to strengthen confidence and security, Jaromir Johanes said that “the Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers agreed to make every effort to ensure their speediest possible progress and the elaboration of generally acceptable agreements. The principal of equal security must, however, be fully observed,” the minister said.

He characterized the problem of tactical nuclear weapons as very urgent and said that “modernization of weapons must be replaced by modernization of political thinking, that instead of strengthening the arms potential it is necessary to strengthen confidence. We understand the final aim—removal of these dangerous weapons from our continent—as an inseparable part of our effort for a nuclear-free world. It is also closely linked to our proposals to create a nuclear-free zone in central Europe,” Jaromir Johanes said.

The ministers paid special attention to the improvement of the mechanism of cooperation in the framework of the Warsaw Treaty, and discussed coordinated approach to the preparation and realization of important actions agreed on at the Vienna follow-up meeting. They stressed the necessity of ensuring that the forthcoming three-stage conference on the humanitarian dimension of the Helsinki process opening in Paris next May be held in a constructive spirit free from confrontation. Also discussed was the development of mutually advantageous East-West cooperation in the economic and scientific-technological sphere, and questions of cooperation in environmental protection including the preparation of an ecological forum in Sofia. In this connection the Czechoslovak delegation explained the present state of the realization of Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec's proposal to call to Prague a meeting of the heads of government of the states neighbouring on Czechoslovakia to discuss ecological issues.

Jaromir Johanes pointed out that the Czechoslovak delegation actively participated in the elaboration of all the adopted documents. It strictly observed the need for strengthening unity of the Warsaw Treaty members while taking into account Czechoslovakia's specific needs and interests.

Warsaw Pact Ministers' Statement

*LD1204173889 Prague CTK in English
1459 GMT 12 Apr 89*

[Text] Berlin April 12 (CTK)—The Warsaw Treaty member states propose to the NATO states that independent talks be opened as soon as possible on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe including nuclear means of double destination, said a statement on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe issued here today at the close of a session of the Warsaw Treaty countries' foreign ministers.

It stressed that the Warsaw Treaty states are convinced that practical measures in the sphere of conventional weapons and tactical nuclear weapons cuts would complement each other and strengthen with the decreasing level of military confrontation of the two blocs. These measures would help ease the danger of war, strengthen confidence and create a more stable situation in Europe, the statement said adding that the implementation of this task would contribute to progress towards a substantial reduction of strategic nuclear weapons and to complete and general liquidation of nuclear weapons in the future.

Questions concerning the preparation of the proposed talks could be discussed at special consultations which the allied socialist states could open immediately. These consultations could be attended by NATO and Warsaw Treaty nuclear powers and all other states concerned—members of these blocs, those owning tactical means and able to use nuclear warheads and those on whose territory tactical nuclear means are deployed.

At the very beginning it could be agreed that the cuts in tactical nuclear weapons and their liquidation be realized stage by stage.

Discussed at the talks would be measures of effective international control of the reduction and liquidation of tactical nuclear weapons and also a set of measures concerning confidence and security in relation to these means and military activity linked to their use. It would also be possible to consider the possibility of setting up an international control commission with relevant powers.

The Warsaw Treaty states are convinced that mutual renouncement of the modernization of tactical nuclear weapons by both sides would contribute to the creation of a favourable political atmosphere for these talks and to strengthening confidence. These means would not be increased in numbers.

The Warsaw Treaty members are convinced that the considerable reduction of Soviet forces in Central Europe and other unilateral steps of the Warsaw Treaty aimed at reducing Armed Forces and armament create favourable conditions for the realization of proposals to create zones with lower armament and higher confidence and nuclear-free zones in central Europe, the Balkans and in other regions of the continent from which all nuclear means would be withdrawn.

A regime envisaging mutual control including on-the-spot inspection would be created in these zones, the statement of the Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers said.

Fischer Toasts Olechowski

*AU1304145189 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
in German 12 Apr 89 p 3*

[Toast by GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer at a dinner given in honor of Polish Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski in Berlin on 11 April: "Peace Program of the Alliance Is Being Successfully Implemented"]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends,

Thank you all very much for accepting my invitation. This Berlin meeting of the committee of foreign ministers was preceded by important events. The Vienna CSCE follow-up meeting was concluded, and fresh negotiations on conventional disarmament as well as on confidence- and security-building measures have begun.

Two things became obvious in the balance sheet that we have drawn up by agreement:

1. The peace program of our alliance is being successfully implemented; it is realistic and open toward everything, it is directed toward disarmament and greater security, and it gives no one an advantage.

2. Our persistent efforts and, above all, the bold and truly trailblazing initiatives of the Soviet Union have led to the first encouraging results. We now have to and want to work with many initiatives, so as to soon be able to take the next important step on the path of disarmament.

However, everyone knows that this difficult path toward disarmament cannot be trodden by anyone alone—the other party must also travel with him. Therefore, it is the wish of us all that the NATO member states decide to become reliable companions along the way, and it is not only our wish that they do not drag their feet in Vienna and in other places, but that they also will help to determine the rapid pace of disarmament. Our meeting arrived at responsible decisions on this and has already approved far-reaching documents.

In this year, in which the 75th anniversary of World War I and the 50th anniversary of World War II are taking place, all states and peoples are called upon to once again profess their commitment to the obligation to ensure peace.

I add that this is significant, particularly for the socialist German state and for its capital of Berlin—a “city of peace”—because this accords with the antifascist legacy to accept responsibility of ensuring that war never again emanates from German soil, but only peace. You may rest assured that the socialist German republic—a state of socialism and, thus, of peace—will do everything possible for this.

As your host, I feel bound to pay particular tribute to the comradely and constructive cooperation that also characterized this conference.

I ask you to raise your glasses with me to drink to

- our alliance;
- the success of our common policy and actions aimed at consolidating world peace and strengthening socialism;
- the health of you all!

Honecker Receives Ministers

*LD1204141589 East Berlin ADN International
Service in German 1210 GMT 12 Apr 89*

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, today received the foreign ministers who participated in the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Committee meeting.

He praised their work at this meeting as a contribution to the further formulation of the Warsaw Pact's political concept of disarmament. The most important thing now, Erich Honecker stated, is for the disarmament process to not be interrupted. This is in accordance with the orientation of the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers committee meeting, which just took place, to increase efforts

to continue the disarmament process in the conventional and nuclear spheres. The socialist states have put their position to the test for the world to see through demonstrable—and unilateral—measures. One should now expect, it was said in the talks, that constructive contributions which support new agreements on disarmament, and which at the same time refrain from carrying out anything to block them, should also ensue from NATO.

Erich Honecker emphasized that the Berlin committee meeting statement on tactical nuclear weapons is of extraordinarily great importance. For a long time the GDR has been searching for ways to make possible a zero-zero option to eliminate nuclear weapons in Europe. One such way is the proposal for separate negotiations for reducing tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, including the nuclear components of dual-capability weapons, which has now been officially presented by the Warsaw Pact. The locale of the talks on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the World War II is of special significance in view of the increase of neo-Nazism in the FRG and Berlin (West). It is more than a symbolic gesture, the highest GDR representative stated, that this statement has been issued on German soil.

Erich Honecker briefed the participants in the talks about topical questions of development in the GDR in connection with the preparations for the 12th SED party congress. Here the wide-ranging public discussions to prepare for local elections were characterized as an expression of living socialist democracy, which releases new initiatives for improvements in working and living conditions.

The SED Central Committee general secretary and chairman of the GDR State Council asked the foreign ministers to convey his warmest greetings and best wishes to the general secretaries and first secretaries of the fraternal parties.

GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer and Deputy Foreign Minister Ernst Krabatsch were present at the meeting, which took place in a friendly and open atmosphere.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Discusses Session

*LD1204200889 Budapest MTI in English
1836 GMT 12 Apr 89*

[Text] Berlin, April 12 (MTI)—Peter Varkonyi, minister of foreign affairs, who attended the Berlin session of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of Warsaw Treaty member states, issued a statement to Hungarian journalists on the documents accepted and work done in Berlin.

He said three documents were accepted by the committee of foreign ministers of the Warsaw Treaty in Berlin: a statement pertaining to European tactical nuclear weapons, a call for freeing the world from war, and the usual statement concluding the session.

"Our main concern is tactical nuclear disarmament, which would make for European stability and the reduction of the danger of a surprise attack. We believe our proposal for talks on tactical nuclear disarmament does not interfere with the disarmament talks in Vienna—on the contrary, it would complement them. The reduction of European tactical nuclear weapons, including the stemming of disproportions, or their total elimination, would be a huge step towards total nuclear disarmament.

"We paid great attention to the evaluation of the Vienna follow-up conference," the minister continued. "We said on behalf of Hungary that the balanced implementation of the documents accepted by the pan-European conference was a condition of progress. We would not accept the selective fulfilment of obligation. The Vienna meeting was a breakthrough in promoting human rights and humanitarian relations, and establishing a mechanism of human dimensions."

Communique Issued on Meeting

*AU1704130589 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND
in German 13 Apr 89 pp 1, 3*

[“Communique of the Session of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Pact Member States”]

[Text] The Committee of the Foreign Ministers of the states participating in the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance held a regular meeting here on 11-12 April 1989.

The meeting was attended by Petur Mladenov, foreign minister of the People's Republic of Bulgaria; Peter Varkonyi, foreign minister of the Hungarian People's Republic; Oskar Fischer, foreign minister of the German Democratic Republic, Tadeusz Olechowski, foreign minister of the Polish People's Republic, Ioan Totu, foreign minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, first deputy foreign minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Jaromir Johanes, foreign minister of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

The ministers were satisfied to note progress in strengthening peace and disarmament, which offers favorable opportunities for broadening cooperation among states and peoples.

They stated at the same time that the world situation remains complicated and contradictory. The Warsaw Pact member countries are fully resolved to continue a policy of fundamentally improving the situation in Europe and the world and expect other states to show the required constructive attitudes and realism.

The meeting called for furthering political dialogue on key issues of world development, based on a comprehensive approach to enhancing international peace and security in keeping with the UN Charter, with the role and effectiveness of this world organization being constantly on the increase.

The participants in the meeting came out for stepping up efforts to continue the disarmament process. They reiterated the position of their states on the need to substantially reduce armed forces and conventional arms along with effecting corresponding cuts in military spending.

As European affairs were discussed, the attending ministers exchanged opinions on the results of the Vienna follow-up meeting and pointed out that its final document contains understandings whose realization will facilitate stronger peace and security in Europe, better mutual understanding and closer cooperation on the continent.

It is essential for all states participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to fulfill the understandings unilaterally, in bilateral and multilateral relations on the basis of extensive mutually advantageous cooperation in political, military, economic, scientific, technological, cultural, and humanitarian fields and in the sphere of the human dimension with respect for equality, independence, and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and other principles and objectives of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and other universally recognized norms of international relations.

The participants in the meeting expressed the determination of their states to act in this direction.

The ministers hailed the start of talks on conventional armed forces and confidence- and security-building measures in Europe and stressed the firm will of their countries to pursue a constructive line at these negotiations and press for specific results within a short time.

Unilateral steps taken by allies states to cut their armed forces, armaments and military budgets have been a graphic manifestation of this will.

The Warsaw Pact member states urge the NATO member states and all European nations to take specific steps that will help scale down military confrontation in Europe.

They also call on them to refrain from any action capable of undermining anything positive that has already been achieved in improving the international situation and of complicating the talks started in Vienna.

It is becoming ever more obvious today that it is imperative for the Warsaw Pact and NATO to form relations on a truly non-confrontational basis and for corresponding conditions to be created with a view to simultaneously dissolving both alliances, starting from their military wings.

The ministers voiced the hope that these considerations will find understanding and support.

Noting the importance of fulfilling precisely the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the elimination of intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, the ministers pointed out the inadmissibility of any "compensatory" measures, including those taken under the pretext of modernizing tactical nuclear arms.

A separate statement was adopted on tactical nuclear weapons in Europe.

It was emphasized at the meeting that an early treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States on a 50-percent reduction in their strategic offensive arms in the context of compliance with the ABM Treaty, as signed in 1972, remains a top priority, and that this will be a major contribution to creating a nuclear-free world.

It was emphasized at the same time that it is essential to work toward totally eliminating nuclear, chemical, and other types of mass-destruction weapons.

The ministers stated that multilateral, bilateral, and unilateral measures to reduce armed forces and armaments have placed the problem of converting military production to civilian needs on the agenda of the day.

It is a complex and many-sided problem which effectively requires both national and joint efforts. An important role in this respect can be played by the United Nations.

In the interest of further increasing openness in the military field, the meeting called for continued efforts to work out criteria for comparing military budgets with the use of standardized international accounts of military spending, which are accepted at the United Nations.

The meeting made a point of noting that strict respect for the existing territorial-political realities, the inviolability of the existing borders, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, and the universally recognized principles and norms of interstate relations is the principal condition of a stable world order in Europe and a guarantee of developing and consolidating the all-European process.

The improving political climate and the current growing interdependence are creating favorable prerequisites for activating economic contacts between states with different sociopolitical systems, which is an essential factor for developing the CSCE process on a balanced basis.

The meeting pointed out the need for expanding trade, promoting cooperative arrangements in production and science and technology, and in ensuring access to modern technology along with lifting restrictions and discriminatory impediments of all kinds.

As they compared notes on regional conflicts, including those in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Central America, the ministers reaffirmed the resolve of their states to actively assist their political resolution by taking into account the rightful interests of the sides and by demonstrating respect for the right of every people to decide their own destiny.

The ministers expressed themselves in favor of independent, nonaligned, and democratic Afghanistan, and for ensuring its free development on the basis of a policy of national reconciliation without any outside interference.

They stressed the need for further efforts to settle the Afghan problem.

The meeting noted the progress achieved in peacefully defusing conflicts in some regions and the efforts of the United Nations in this field.

A separate address, "For a World Without Wars", was adopted.

The meeting expressed a firm intention to develop and deepen all-around cooperation among the allied socialist states.

The meeting of the foreign ministers committee was held in an atmosphere of friendship and comradely mutual understanding.

The next meeting is to take place in Warsaw.

BULGARIA

Defense Minister Interviewed on Military Restructuring, Defense Cuts *AU1104200189 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 10 Apr 89 pp 1, 3*

[Interview with Army General Dobri Dzhurov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and minister of national defense, by Gencho Boshnakov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO reporter: "Restructuring and the Bulgarian People's Army"; date and place not given]

[Text] The entire country is restructuring, and so is the Bulgarian People's Army. The dynamic social processes that are taking place give rise to many issues which are also related to the changes that are taking place in the Bulgarian People's Army [BPA], in its present and future role, the reduction of our armed troops and weapons, the publication of data which until now was considered a military and state secret, and in military service in general.

Various aspects of these issues were discussed by Army General Dobri Dzhurov, member of the Politburo of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee and minister of national defense, answering the questions of RABOTNICHESKO DELO representative Gencho Boshnakov.

[Boshnakov] Comrade Dzhurov, we live and work in a time of revolutionary renewal. It encompasses all spheres of our society. Restructuring the BPA arouses special interest. How is it taking place, how is it expressed, and what are its main directions and principles?

[Dzhurov] On the basis of the decisions of the 13th BCP Congress, the Ministry of National Defense has developed a long-range program and plans at all levels on implementing restructuring. The program determines the goal, basic directions and tasks, methods and strike force, and decisive factors in achieving the final goal. The following are the main directions vested in our program:

- improving the organizational structure of the troops in accordance with the requirements of the new defensive doctrine, by devoting special attention to the concept of "reasonable sufficiency;"
- raising the technological basis of the units and detachments to a qualitatively new level;
- perfecting the plans, programs, and other normative documents related to the operational, combat, and political training of the troops;
- further improving the plans and programs on training the officer and noncommissioned cadres in the higher educational military establishments;
- enhancing the role and place of the BCP primary party organizations and the Komsomol organizations in army life; and
- raising the style and methods of work of the commanders, political organs, the party, Komsomol, and trade union organs and organizations to a qualitatively new level.

In short, the development of broad organizational, political, scientific, and practical-applicable work to implement the program on restructuring is turning into the most essential characteristic of the life of all Army units.

After the BCP national conference and the subsequent Central Committee plenums, this program became topical. In addition, I must stress that we periodically review our work with a view to asserting direct leadership of the processes of restructuring.

The new realities and tendencies of the restructuring processes in the BPA prompt us to penetrate, supervise, and lead these processes, in order to stress the tasks that have priority in our specific military conditions, and determine and direct the efforts of the relevant factor toward implementing the restructuring processes.

In this context, I would like to point out that a meeting of the all-Army party aktiv took place on 17 March 1989, at which the progress of restructuring in the Army was analyzed in a profound and critical manner. We clarified some of the tasks and forms, mainly, what style and methods of work must be applied by the main strike force of the BPA—the commanders, political organs, the party, Komsomol, and trade union organs and organizations—in asserting and strengthening restructuring.

The first conclusion we reached at the meeting of the aktiv was that we had correctly determined the goal, contents, and basic directions and tasks of restructuring and that we are marching confidently along the road we have outlined. We are successfully solving the tasks of building up and developing the troops with a view to bringing their structure into line with the principle of reasonable and reliable sufficiency, which occupies a leading place in the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member countries. In addition, we are actively working to improve the quality parameters in the comprehensive training of the BPA.

The second conclusion was that the pace of the renewal processes in the Army still does not fully correspond to the requirements of the BCP Central Committee and the existing material, scientific-technical, and organizational conditions and cadre potentials of the BPA.

The work of the all-Army party aktiv gave new impetus to the Communists in the Army to work even harder to implement our program on the qualitatively new level of the BPA's combat readiness.

[Boshnakov] Undoubtedly, the new realities in international relations have a strong influence. The USSR's peace initiatives, the steps toward disarmament taken by the USSR and the United States, the efforts to strengthen peace, security, and confidence, the defensive doctrine of the Warsaw Pact, and the unilateral reductions in the socialist countries' armed forces and weapons pose many questions. One of the most important among them concerns the present and future role of the Armed Forces. Similarly, we are interested in the question of how to guarantee the defensive ability and independence of our motherland against the background of this situation and the troop reduction. What problems emerge and how will they be resolved?

[Dzhurov] There are qualitatively new realities in the world, in both East and West, and in relations between them. Our parties and governments are taking these realities into consideration while conducting their coordinated peaceful foreign policy. Their efforts are aimed

first of all toward decreasing international tension, achieving general and total disarmament, and guaranteeing peace and security for all nations throughout the world.

However, some people think that under conditions of decreasing military confrontation and the significant and unilateral reductions of armed troops and weapons on the part of the Warsaw Pact member countries, the Army, as an instrument of the state, has outlived its time, and that armed forces must be eliminated in future. If we proceed from the willingness and interests of mankind, militarism really has no future under the present conditions. As a result of the new political thinking, people throughout the world are becoming wiser and more intelligent. Even the most militaristic circles understand that a nuclear war will end civilization and that earth will turn into a dead desert. Furthermore, science shows that even a conventional war, waged with the classical means of armed struggle, can cause the destruction of entire states and continents, if one takes into consideration the numerous nuclear reactors that have been constructed throughout the world, the great number of chemical plants, and the many other nuclear and chemical industry installations. However, this does not mean that the tasks of the Armed Forces have been exhausted. It suffices to say that as long as imperialism and its military doctrines and concepts exist in this restless world that is full of contradictions and surprises, then armed forces will continue to exist. Today and in the future, they will guard our people's socialist achievements and the southern borders of our socialist community.

Proceeding from "reasonable sufficiency," our goal is to reduce the armed forces of countries and coalitions, lower both sides' threshold of military confrontation as much as possible, and remove suspicion and strivings for unilateral advantages as much as possible. However, this naturally does not depend only on our willingness.

Aggressive goals are alien to socialism. The creation and maintenance of armed forces were prompted by external reasons—the danger of imperialist aggression. As long as this exists, our motherland's defensive ability must be maintained at the necessary high level.

The numerical and combat strength of the BPA must be determined—and naturally, will be determined—by military-political, operational-strategic, and political realities in the region, the continent, and the world. In this context, we must again stress that in our comprehensive activity related to construction and training, we give priority to the qualitative indices.

We have made significant reductions. We reduced the number of personnel, tanks, artillery systems, and combat aircraft, as well as the military budget. We expect similar steps from our NATO partners. However, the actions of the Western countries imply something else.

They voice appeals for "rearming," adopting "compensating programs," creating "new high-precision weapons," "modernizing" nuclear weapons, and so forth. Many Western politicians and military figures are underestimating the policy conducted by the Warsaw Pact member countries, and show a skeptical attitude toward all measures which the Warsaw Pact member countries are implementing in the military area. Naturally, we can clearly say that such people are still living with obsolete concepts borrowed from the time of the "cold war" and "confrontation." The military-power approach and the mania for "superiority" that are decisively rejected by the people still dominate their thinking. We cannot and must not overlook the statements and especially the practical actions of these figures.

The issue of defense sufficiency is two-sided. We must not allow any of the sides to have military superiority. In order to eliminate the temptation of a regional, continental, or global military attack, each country must only have sufficient armed forces and weapons to guarantee its defense and security and ensure its independence. The Armed Forces must be maintained at such a level and in such a degree of combat readiness that under any conditions they could defend the country from an external attack and deal a crucial blow to any aggressor.

[Boshnakov] Our readers ask many questions related to the announced reduction of the armed forces and weapons of the BPA—are those reductions sufficient, how will the released funds be used, how will the social problems of the discharged officers and noncommissioned officers be solved, and are there enterprises belonging to the military industry that will be directed toward producing goods needed by the national economy and the market?

[Dzhurov] The State Council and Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, proceeding from the general tendency toward detente in the international situation, decided on 27 January 1979 to decrease the country's 1989 military budget and unilaterally reduce the Armed Forces and weapons up to 1990.

What really stands behind the figures that have been published?

First. This 12 percent of the military budget includes expenditures for food, clothing, and other consumer needs of the personnel who will be discharged in 1989, as well as the decreased quantity of weapons, ammunition, and property that our country's industry had previously planned to supply in 1989. The means saved will obviously be directed toward satisfying needs which the government considers purposeful. As to how the means will specifically be used—you must ask the competent governmental organs.

Second. As far as the Armed Forces are concerned, it has been envisaged that 10,000 troops will really be discharged, which is equivalent to the personnel of an

under-strength motorized infantry division, a tank brigade, two separate motorized infantry regiments, one military school, one air force fighter regiment, and a naval unit.

We have also planned to reduce the leading personnel of the Ministry of National Defense and the separate armed services.

Third. Some of the weapons that have been reduced will be refitted as tractors for the needs of the BPA and the national economy; some will be used in fire-brigades; others will be used as museum exhibits; yet others will serve the needs of the defense support organization, and so forth.

Fourth. The organizational structure of the troops is to be brought into line with the requirements of the defensive doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member countries. The plans, programs, and normative base of the troops and the military higher educational establishments will be improved.

Fifth. We are successfully implementing the program on the social security of the officers and noncommissioned officers, by paying special attention to those who will be discharged. In this context, I would like to point out that we plan to discharge from the Armed Forces only officers, noncommissioned officers, and petty officers who are socially secure, with pensions, apartments, and so forth. We have envisaged appropriate efforts on the part of the Ministry of National Defense, together with the party and state organs, to settle the discharged personnel throughout the country in accordance with the principles of justice.

Sixth. The issue of conversion is complicated and affects all states engaged in reducing armed forces and weapons in Europe.

As is known, the party is following a course of restructuring our entire national economy. The percentage and pace involved, as well as the issue of conversion, are a matter which comes under the competence of the Ministry of Planning and Economy, where, I think, you can receive more specific information.

[Boshnakov] A new standard and atmosphere are being created in Bulgaria regarding information, in which, as one understands from the party decisions, the press, television, and radio will play an important role. Certain statistical data are about to be removed from the zone of secrecy. For example, RABOTNICHESKO DELO readers are interested in whether the military budget will continue to be a state secret, and whether it will be discussed in the National Assembly. Will other information also be reported on the BPA and aspects of army life that are of interest to the public at large—such as violations of the statutes and laws, negative phenomena in the relations between military servicemen, and other things?

[Dzhurov] Yes. A new standard and atmosphere are indeed being created in our country regarding information, and this is understandable. This new atmosphere and standard are being created not only in Bulgaria, but also in the world as a whole, under the favorable influence of the foreign policy course of new political thinking that is being followed by the USSR and the other Warsaw Pact states, which is aimed at strengthening confidence and security and preventing war. Thanks to this policy and the increasing influence of the new political thinking, it has become possible to remove from the zone of secrecy extremely important data on the strengths of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact and NATO and on their quantities of armaments. Irrespective of the differences in approaches in assessing this data, we regard this as an extremely positive prerequisite and condition for further strengthening confidence and for the success of the talks on reducing armed forces in Europe that have started in Vienna. Given that these talks develop favorably, one might naturally expect other statistical data to be released from secrecy, including the publication of the military budgets of Bulgaria and other countries that have not yet declared them. Regarding the announcement of other data on the BPA and other aspects of army life, in accordance with the policy of glasnost adopted by the party, this is being done now, and in the future we will continue to publish data within the framework of the principles we have established for building up the Armed Forces. However, I would like to stress this heavily: Everything in its own time.

However, all this does not mean abolishing military secrets and secrecy as a whole. There are a number of topics that will be subject to strict military and state secrecy, and all violators of these secrets will be prosecuted as provided for by the law.

[Boshnakov] A discussion is going on in the Soviet press on whether the Army should be built up on the principle of compulsory military service, or whether one should change over to the voluntary principle. In your view, is such a transition appropriate at present, both in general and with specific reference to our country?

[Dzhurov] Questions of building up the Armed Forces in Bulgaria are very complex, and one should approach such matters with great care, analyzing in depth and taking into account the specific conditions and trends in our country, in our region, on our continent, and on a global scale. I am thinking of the fact that many factors of an internal nature, of an interalliance character, and of an interbloc nature concerning East-West relations, the development and dynamics of the scientific and technical revolution, and other matters, influence the principles relating to building up the Army.

In this context, I would like to stress that the comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the complex of factors I mentioned above, as well as the comparison of the different methods for completing military service, show that, at the present stage of relations between East and

West, of the development of human interrelations, and of the role and place of the new technologies in creating new weapons for armed struggle, no conditions exist for a changeover to voluntary principles for building up the Army.

[Boshnakov] Our editorial office is receiving letters in which, apart from questions on whether universal compulsory military service will be maintained, and for how long, readers also ask whether the period of military service will be reduced, whether secondary schoolchildren will be relieved of military field training, how students will complete their service, why are several intakes being retained after the expiry of the set period of service, and so on. We would like your answers and comments.

[Dzhurov] With regard to the length of service, we should start from my answer to the preceding question.

One of the basic principles for building up the Army, which stems from the defensive doctrine, is the orientation toward quality parameters, one of the elements of which is raising the technical level of the weapons for armed struggle. Bearing in mind the exceptional dynamism of this process, caused by the rapid development of new technologies, I consider that there is no place for reducing the length of service at this stage. Some of the grounds for my view are:

- first, the rapidly increasing complexity of armaments and equipment, the creation of the so-called "intelligent" weapons, and the overall computerization [informatizatsiya] of warfare mean that the soldiers require much more effort and time to master them;
- second, in order to achieve success in combat, the soldiers must acquire both appropriate skills and thorough practice in operating these weapons for armed struggle so that their actions become automatic, and this also requires time;
- third, the creation of a modern fighting soldier, one who is capable of fulfilling his duties in the harsh, demanding conditions of a war, is a very complex, difficult, and lengthy process, which also needs time. We should also bear in mind certain other circumstances.

The question of young people's initial military training is covered by Decree No 1923/1984 of the State Council of Bulgaria. This decree aims to promote youth education in the spirit of socialist patriotism and internationalism and to prepare them to carry out their military and civic duty of defending the socialist homeland. Secondary schoolchildren study material presented in the regular classes on initial military training, and during their military field training acquire skills and practical experience in protection against mass destruction weapons, medical and public health protection, first aid, and so on. I believe that this training is necessary for secondary schoolchildren and should be continued in the future.

On 26 February this year, Decision No 30 of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] was issued. This decree states that students accepted for higher education will complete their military service after they have completed their higher education. The Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Culture, Science, and Education are instructed to submit suitable proposals to the Council of Ministers for the completion of military service by young men who have completed their higher education.

The question of the retention of intakes due for release is a matter within the competence of the government. According to Article 43 of the Law on Universal Military Service, "an intake due for release may, at the decision of the government, be retained in active military service after completing the set period of service." On the basis of this decree, in recent years the intake due to be released has been retained to carry out economic tasks of national importance.

[Boshnakov] Comrade Dzhurov, one understands from your words that one cannot manage without an army, and that it is necessary to devote systematic and consistent care to strengthening both the Army and defense. In what directions will this care be shown in the future? How will the country's defense capability be maintained at the highest level? Is there a future for the professional soldier in this respect?

[Dzhurov] At this stage of society's development, the Army is needed to defend our people's peaceful labor and their socialist achievements. Within the framework of the Warsaw Pact, the BPA is also fulfilling certain international obligations as a member of this pact. We will continue in the future to devote the necessary care to maintaining at a high level the combat and mobilization capabilities of the BPA, its training, educational-material base, and social security, in order to ensure that it remains in a position to carry out, if necessary, the tasks it has been assigned by the party and the government.

Naturally, support in preparing the troops for defense will be provided in the strategic, operational, and tactical aspects, and the formations and units will continue to receive further ample quantities of defensive weapons, including antitank and air defense weapons, engineering equipment, and other equipment that increase the steadfastness of our defense.

In regard to the country's defensive capability, the issues are principally connected with building up the system of state and military management, raising the level of the training of the population, improving training in operations on the territory of the country, and advancing the entire national economy. This is why servicemen's professional training will be continuously improved, and the strictness of the requirements in this direction will acquire new dimensions. In this context, the profession of the soldier will acquire even greater importance and public recognition. Its importance is valued highly,

because the need to defend the homeland stems from defending the achievements the People's Republic of Bulgaria has made over these past 45 years, and especially from the requirements of implementing the BCP's July Concept.

[Boshnakov] Under the conditions of restructuring, the training of the military cadres, who possess new qualities and skills, is certainly of particular importance. What conditions are being created to realize and stimulate people's capabilities, and what is the style of work in this direction?

[Dzhurov] It is indeed true that the new political thinking in international relations, the defensive military doctrine of the socialist countries, and the need to quickly restructure society, including the Army, have increased the demands made upon the military cadres to a new, higher level. Alongside the traditional requirements for military and communist confidence, patriotism, internationalism, discipline, socialist morality, and love for the military profession, increasing importance is being attached under the new conditions to in-depth theoretical, basic, and specialist military training, as well as language, legal, and computer training. It is now especially necessary for the military cadres to quickly adjust to the dynamically changing situation, to be able to quickly make the most appropriate decisions, to display a greater sense of responsibility, and to approach the implementation of these decisions with more demanding criteria and strictness. All these qualities are produced by the high standard of professional military training.

Our work is presently being directed toward these ends.

In accordance with our party's decisions on restructuring in the intellectual sphere, we have also further improved the system of military education. The main institutes for training the military cadres—the Military Academy and the higher military schools—are developing into integrated training and scientific centers, with a modern educational-material base and excellent conditions for the training and development of students, course members, and teaching and command staff, and for ensuring the fulfillment of their creative abilities. Many candidates and doctors of sciences, docents, and professors work in these institutes. The modern computer equipment and microcomputers, electronic simulators, and scientific research laboratories provide a good basis for participation in military science work, in inventing and rationalizing activities, and in the various forms of the Movement for Youth Technical and Scientific Creativity. The good creative links established with the civilian higher educational establishments and scientific institutes also contribute to this.

The method for motivating servicemen does not differ from the system of incentives outside the BPA. Numbers of officers and those in the noncommissioned ranks have received orders and government awards. In addition, the

statutes of the armed services also provide opportunities for encouraging servicemen to perform their tasks to meet an excellent standard. Outstanding course members are awarded special grants. Every year, the Military Academy and the higher military schools hold competitions for the best development projects, textbooks, and teaching aids in military science. The most outstanding commanders and lecturers are given the opportunity to take up higher posts, work in scientific institutes, and gain scientific degrees and titles.

[Boshnakov] What will you say in conclusion to our readers, to all the citizens of socialist Bulgaria, as a man who has devoted his entire conscious life to the military profession?

[Dzhurov] I would like the RABOTNICHESKO DELO readers, the citizens of our socialist native land, and especially young people, to study and learn about the history of our people and state, to love their people and their native land, and to be ready to sacrifice themselves for its defense, as was done by our forefathers: the revolutionaries of the national liberation movement, who struggled heroically against the oppressors; the soldier volunteers of the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78, who shed their blood to the last drop in defending Shipka; the heroes of September 1923, who recorded golden pages in Bulgaria's history; the partisan men and women who fought with unparalleled dedication in the ranks of the People's Revolutionary Army of Restoration and made their worthy contribution to the antifascist struggle; and the soldiers and commanders who took part in the Patriotic War of 1944-45, who, side by side with the Soviet Army, routed Hitler's armies, advanced as far as the Alps, and crowned their battle standards with undying glory. I would like them to engage actively in restructuring, multiply our people's socialist achievements, and put all their efforts and youthful daring into achieving the continuous advance and glory of our native land, the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

First Deputy Defense Minister Interviewed on CFE/CSBM Talks

*AU1404141089 Sofia VECHERNI NOVINI
in Bulgarian 13 Apr 89 p 3*

[Report on interview with Colonel General Khristo Dobrev, Bulgarian first deputy minister of national defense, by Momchil Petrov: "The Vienna Clock"; date, place not given]

[Text] The negotiations on conventional arms and on confidence- and security-building measures which were briefly interrupted at the Vienna Hofburg are expected to be resumed. The chief goal of these negotiations is to considerably reduce the combat strength of NATO and the Warsaw Pact. The problems are quite complicated, but the dynamic start of the new Vienna negotiations filled both politicians and journalists with such optimism that we became somewhat incautious.

Could it be possible that the negotiations may one day reach a dead end? As a matter of fact, from a realistic point of view, we should admit that the negotiations are related only to armaments in which the Warsaw Pact has superiority, without taking into account the existing imbalance to the advantage of NATO. Will the West continue to rely on the one-sided initiative of the socialist countries? Where is the sensible limit of unilateral disarmament? These and numerous other questions require an answer.

Colonel General Khristo Dobrev, first deputy minister of national defense, explains the situation as follows: The sensible limit is reasonable sufficiency. We should reach a level of armaments and armed forces that enables us to resist aggression in case this becomes necessary. This is the level of reasonable sufficiency, and we should not go further below this level. We do not think that we have crossed this limit. In order to achieve a reliable peace, combat forces, even if reduced in number, should not be concentrated in one or two sectors. Naturally, the most interesting thing for us is to observe how the NATO strike forces will be dispersed in the Balkans, and this applies in particular to the numerically strong Turkish Army, which is equipped with modern weapons, General Dobrev quite correctly pointed out.

The transformation of the armed forces into a purely defensive institution will be discussed at a later stage of the Vienna negotiations. This applies to the Balkans as well. The main forces of the Turkish Army are stationed in eastern Thracia, namely near our borders. This influences the deployment of our Army today. Nevertheless, when the question of establishing zones with a reduced concentration of troops is raised, a solution should evidently also be found for our region, Gen Dobrev emphasized.

Both the Warsaw Pact and NATO are treating the data released by each side on each other's military potential with distrust. How should we proceed under these circumstances?

The cold war forged the image of the enemy in both the East and West over many years. This is the source of distrust. Modern means of reconnaissance make it possible to establish the military power of each side with sufficient precision. It is not a question of concealing data, but rather of the efforts of the Americans to exclude from the negotiations certain types of weapons, such as strategic bombers and the combat potential of their naval forces.... The Vienna clock is now counting the last years of cold war. How would you like to see relations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO after mutual distrust has been eliminated?

Perhaps, just like this: with the Warsaw Pact and NATO no longer in existence, Gen Dobrev says.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Arms Agreements Can Engender 'Pacifist Perceptions'

AU2004095089 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
18 Apr 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The People's Army and the Disarmament Process"]

[Excerpts] The 1980's have distinctly changed the approach both to the questions of war and peace and to assessing the way of ensuring a strategic equilibrium between the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Talks have begun on draft agreements which, for the first time in history, not only have to change or limit a further arms buildup, but eliminate certain types of weapons. [passage omitted]

The progress made in reducing the level of military confrontation, as well as the changes in the military doctrines which are on the horizon, favorably influence the general development of relations in Europe, and therefore the whole of our society welcomes and comprehensively supports them. [passage omitted]

However, we cannot conceal the fact that next to the favorable influence of the contemporary developments on the life and work of our citizens there also exist certain negative phenomena. The increased feeling of security causes many people to have pacifist perceptions of the many problems of the present day world that is full of contradictoriness. The ideological current that is carrying them is one that underestimates the danger of war and has a less patriotically motivated responsibility to defend our country and socialism. Even though the consequence is not the rejection of the need to defend the socialist fatherland as such, there exists the underestimation of the importance of preparing for it.

We must realize that such and similar views and attitudes have not come into being from one day to another, but that over a long period the inadequate convincingness and the formalistic nature of paramilitary-patriotic education has also contributed to this. In the past, without regard for reality, we far too often resorted to the method of always repeating selected arguments, thinking that the more often they are repeated, the sooner and the more easily people will accept them. The resolutions of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee Presidium on the improvement of paramilitary education and on the popularization of the Czechoslovak People's Army (CSLA) in society also are not being consistently implemented. Lately, and above all, the unpreparedness of the staffers of state organs and social organizations in clarifying military issues to the civilian population is especially marked. [passage omitted]

In carrying out the paramilitary-patriotic education of the population, and particularly of the youth, what should we pursue at present? Above all, we should

develop their ability to realistically assess the disarmament processes and to evaluate them according to their real contribution to ensuring peace. [passage omitted] We must carry out extensive work to explain the principles of the military doctrines of the Warsaw Pact member states and of the CSSR and, in this connection, point out the increasing importance of the antiwar, peace-spreading function of the armed forces of the socialist states. Comprehending the new demands aimed at ensuring the country's reliable and sufficient defense presumes comprehending the need for the CSLA's high degree of combat readiness and preparedness and that its material and cadre needs are met. Because we speak about the young generation above all, we must not ignore the necessity of positively influencing its attitudes toward the basic military service. [passage omitted]

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Soviet, GDR Forces Hold Joint Military Exercise

Exercise Begins

*LD1504104289 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 0959 GMT 15 Apr 89*

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The previously announced troop exercise of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany [GSFG] and the GDR National People's Army [NPA] began today in the area of Treuenbritzen, Jessen, Cottbus, Eisenhuettenstadt, and Teupitz. Starting this morning, troops have been guarding the exit zones. Up to 18,500 members of the fraternal armies are taking part in the exercise. The exercise is commanded by Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chernyshev, commander of an army of the GSFG. The aim of the exercise is to perfect the level of training of the troops and to provide instruction on elements of leadership and cooperation in defense.

In accordance with the Stockholm conference documents, observers of all the participant states have been invited. According to current information, 38 generals, officers, and diplomats from these countries are expected in the exercise area on Monday [17 April].

CSCE Observers View Exercises

*LD1704200889 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1635 GMT 17 Apr 89*

[Text] Cottbus (ADN)—The participants in the joint troop exercise of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany [GSFG] and the National People's Army [NPA], made preparations today, as scheduled, for further defense maneuvers. In the Treuenbrietzen, Jessen, Cottbus, Eisenhuettenstadt, and Teupitz regions the troops on the 'orange' side continued the construction of positions, sectors, and zones. In the headquarters, decisions were made and orders for the forthcoming engagement were worked out. Meanwhile, 'blue' forces marched to take up further massing and starting off positions.

As many as 18,500 members of both fraternal armies are taking part in the exercise, under the direction of Lieutenant General Anatoliy Tschernischev, commander in chief of one of the GSFG armies. The armament includes 360 tanks, 490 launchers for guided antitank missiles mounted on armored vehicles, 172 guns over 100mm, and 29 helicopters. Fewer than 200 aircraft sorties are anticipated.

In accordance with the Stockholm document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, 37 maneuver observers from 19 CSCE countries arrived in the GDR during the day. They represent Belgium, Bulgaria, the FRG, the CSSR, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Yugoslavia, Canada, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Hungary, and the United States. On behalf of the GDR Government and the minister for national defense, Army General Heinz Kessler, they were welcomed to Cottbus by Lt Gen Guenter Leistner, deputy chief of the NPA Main Staff.

In a speech he stated that the GDR will in the future actively work together with the allies to see that during the Vienna negotiations the reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe above all is achieved without delay. The unilateral disarmament steps resolved by the USSR, the GDR, and other Warsaw Pact member states will take place as announced without any preconditions. The GDR is consistently representing the point of view that nowadays concrete steps for more detente, security, and disarmament are in demand. In the next few days on the terrain of the exercises, the observers of the maneuvers have the opportunity to convince themselves of the defensive nature of the training exercises, in accordance with the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member states. For the first time this possibility will also be accorded to foreign journalists on troop exercise areas.

Following this, the observers were acquainted with the aim, initial situation, and stages of the exercises on maps and diagrams.

Together with Erhard Mueller, the mayor of Cottbus, those foreign generals, officers, and diplomats taking part in the exercises visited the newly created Cottbus center.

Further on Observers' Activities

*LD1804214289 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1128 GMT 18 Apr 89*

[Text] Cottbus (ADN)—The joint troop exercise of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) and the National People's Army (NVA) were marked by defensive actions on Tuesday [18 April]. Under the leadership of Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chernyshev, commander of one of the GSFG armies, Soviet soldiers and NVA members gathered in their massing and jumping-off positions. In the exercise area, which comprises the

towns of Treuenbrietzen, Jessen, Cottbus, Eisenhuttens-tadt, and Teupitz, troop numbers exceeded 17,000 men. Therefore, in the morning, in accordance with the Stockholm document on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe, the 37 observers from 19 signatory states of the Helsinki Final Act began their work. At the Heidehof exercise area, Major General Vasilii Isayev, deputy commander of the exercise, informed them about the current state of events. He explained the actions of the blue and orange sides. Using a favorable section of the terrain, the defenders offered stubborn resistance and thus slowed down the advance of the blues. In fulfilling this task, Lieutenant Colonel Aleksey Shkrudnev's mechanized infantry performed very well. His regiment was decorated as a guard regiment in 1943 for the heroic struggle against the fascist aggressors at the battle of Kursk Crescent [Kursker Bogen].

At one of the battalion defensive positions of this section of the army, the observers had an opportunity to speak to soldiers about the preparations and tasks so far in the exercise. Foreign journalists were able to report from a troop exercise area in the GDR on the actions of soldiers and the activity of the maneuver observers. The representatives of news agencies, radio and television stations, and newspapers from the FRG, France, Great Britain, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the USSR, and the United States made full use of this. Correspondents thus asked about the announced withdrawal of Soviet troops from the GDR.

A further observation point this afternoon was the Lieberose troop training area, the starting point of a battalion of motorized infantry of the NVA's "Otto Schlag" regiment.

Exercise Reaches 'Final Stage'

*LD2004161989 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1513 GMT 20 Apr 89*

[Text] Cottbus (ADN)—The joint troops exercise of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) and the National People's Army (NVA) entered its final stage today. After the sides had concluded the active exercises, the units and formations began the transfer back to their garrisons. The events were watched by observers from 19 CSCE states. Today, generals, officers, and diplomats visited an antiaircraft missile battery, a field bakery, and a maintenance unit, and spoke with soldiers. In the afternoon the observers were present at the Werder railroad station when tank soldiers prepared their technical equipment for the return transport from the exercise area.

When the troop strength involved in the exercise fell below 17,000 men, the activity of the observers thus came to an end in accordance with the Stockholm document.

At the conclusion of the joint training exercise, Major General Vasilii Isayev, deputy commander of the exercise, stressed that the participating troops and staff had perfected their capabilities for protecting peace and socialism. The character of the exercise corresponded in every detail to the basic principles of the defensive doctrine of the Warsaw Pact member states. Twenty-five-percent fewer tanks were deployed in comparison with earlier comparable exercises. Requests from observers to hold talks with a divisional commander, over and above the arranged program, and to allow night activities were granted.

In the name of the GDR Government and on behalf of the minister for national defense, Army General Heinz Kessler, Lieutenant General Guenter Leistner, deputy chief of the NVA Main Staff, bid farewell in Cottbus to the observers. He assessed their presence as a contribution to the consolidation of confidence and security.

Foreign Minister Fischer Addresses Geneva Disarmament Conference

*LD1804130389 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1005 GMT 18 Apr 89*

[Text] Geneva (ADN)—Realism and foresight demand that we must be resolute in pressing favorable political conditions into the service of disarmament, GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer said in a speech to the Geneva Disarmament Conference today. The socialist German state is doing all it can to ensure that never again should war, but only peace, emanate from German soil.

Conscious of this responsibility, the GDR has put forward proposals for greater security in central Europe. It has promoted the Soviet-U.S. treaty on the removal of medium-range missiles, and together with its allies it is pursuing the aim at the Vienna negotiations of agreeing a lower level of forces and of all relevant categories of arms.

After the first round of talks it emerges that everyone involved wants reductions under strict verification. This is a good common basis. Also, one cannot overlook differences that must be bridged with goodwill. Over and above one-sided alliance interests, priority must be given to the joint aim of a secure Europe in a safe world.

Before the end of this month, the GDR will begin the unilateral reduction of its forces and defense expenditures. Oskar Fischer reminded his audience of similar steps by other socialist states and called them "unprecedented advance concessions." Now NATO must give a constructive answer.

In Berlin, the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact states proposed to NATO that there should be separate negotiations on short-range nuclear weapons in Europe. As long as such weapons remain in Europe, the danger exists of a surprise attack. Plans for nuclear arms in the

immediate vicinity of the GDR are a cause for concern. Efforts to achieve disarmament can only be successful if outdated clichés about military strength and the striving for superiority are abandoned.

High priority is being given at the disarmament conference to the banning of chemical weapons. All states possessing such weapons should now stop producing them and begin destroying stocks. The GDR welcomes the decision of the USSR to do this. The interest declared by U.S. President Bush in the banning of chemical weapons could be convincingly demonstrated if the United States renounces further production of binary weapons.

All opportunities for approaching a ban on chemical weapons should be exploited, the foreign minister said. Thus, a chemical-weapon-free zone in central Europe could be achieved relatively swiftly. The GDR noted with interest the announcement by the United States that it will examine ways of speeding up the removal of its chemical weapons from the FRG. Now it seems the time has arrived to secure the purposeful drafting of a convention on banning chemical weapons via negotiation at foreign minister level at the disarmament conference.

In view of the tempo of scientific and technological development, any pause in disarmament negotiations promotes the continuation of arms stockpiling. The SDI space armaments program not only brings no benefits to security, but also would further destabilize it. The Geneva Disarmament Conference is the most suitable forum to develop the strategy of a nuclear-weapon-free world. A complete ban on nuclear weapons tests would obstruct the further proliferation and modernization of these weapons. The conference should prepare the ground for this. The test ban would be the crucial test of a will to end the nuclear arms race.

Foreign Minister Fischer Discusses Disarmament in Switzerland

LD1704221389 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1831 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Berne (ADN)—A working meeting took place in Berne today between GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer and Rene Felber, member of the Bundesrat of the Swiss confederation and head of the federal department of foreign affairs. The ministers discussed a wide range of international and bilateral questions. The focus of the exchange of opinion, which was conducted in a constructive spirit, was the development of East-West relations, the progress of the CSCE process, and prospects for the various disarmament negotiations. It was emphasized unanimously that the encouraging signals of a lessening of tension in the international climate now must be used decisively to achieve a structure of equal, stable security for all parties based on further-increasing trust and on agreed on and controlled reduction of troops and armaments.

Switzerland was satisfied with relevant efforts made by the GDR, which were in agreement with the efforts of the confederation and other states for less armaments and more cooperation in Europe, Rene Felber stated.

In the analysis of bilateral relations, the ministers stated that the development of relations was running normally and on a healthy basis. It was stressed on both sides that the mutual advantage which forms the basis of the relations can be further increased in all spheres. The goodwill to use determinedly the available possibilities is available on both sides, Oskar Fischer and Rene Felber stated.

High-ranking officials from the foreign ministries of the two countries and the ambassadors of the GDR and Switzerland, Eckhard Bibow and Dr Franz Birrer, took part in the working talks, which were followed by a friendly dinner.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND Accuses NATO of 'Old Thinking, Old Doctrines'

LD0604091689 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0115 GMT 6 Apr 89

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—“Whoever had hoped for at least the start of a renunciation of the old thinking and old doctrines on the occasion of NATO's 40th anniversary has now learned different,” NEUES DEUTSCHLAND writes today in a commentary entitled “Old Thinking, Old Doctrines.”

At an event at the Brussels headquarters there was talk of a “unique opportunity for a basic change in East-West relations. However, how is NATO adapting to this?” the paper asks.

“In the first instance the same policy will remain which produced this military pact in the atmosphere of the Cold War—the policy of military strength, as Secretary General Woerner reasserted. In this spirit the alliance will continue to be the ‘most important means of representing Western interests.’

Secondly, Woerner made it clear that nothing has changed in NATO's aggressive, antisocialist aims. With the formula of letting ‘our own program for the future flow into the East,’ he renewed the calls for a change in the status quo in Europe. Apparently they are still counting on wiping socialism from the face of the earth.”

Thirdly, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND goes on to say that NATO's secretary general had demanded further unilateral disarmament steps without putting forward his own ideas or proposals on this subject.

“Fourthly, the insistence on the doctrine of nuclear deterrence accompanied all this. Fifth, the development, manufacture and deployment of new nuclear weapons in

Europe which is presented as 'modernization' is connected with this." Included in this as "an issue long since decided on" is the replacement of the Lance missiles by new weapons systems with ranges just under 500 km.

"The NATO celebrations gave no indication that anything has changed in the nature of this largest imperialist military pact, which is characterized by confrontation," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND concludes. "It must therefore seem all the more of a bad joke when Christian Democratic Union General Secretary Geissler in Bonn proposed NATO of all things for the Nobel Peace Prize—in the words of its founder, to him who has performed the greatest service to humanity."

Gorbachev's London Speech, NATO Goals Viewed

AU1104130189 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 10 Apr 89 p 2

["He."-signed commentary: "Struggle for Disarmament in the Interest of All Peoples"]

[Text] The struggle for disarmament is important to people in both the East and West. The reason for this is both simple and serious. Banishing the danger of a nuclear war, including its conventional aspects, is the key issue of our time, the elementary precondition for the survival of mankind. The peace policy and the far-reaching disarmament program of socialism take this into consideration. Great efforts will be required to implement this program, for the opponents of disarmament and detente have not yet given up their resistance to these.

For this reason, socialism has repeatedly launched initiatives. This has again been demonstrated by the decisions of the Soviet Union that were announced by Mikhail Gorbachev during his visit to London. These testify to the determination with which the struggle for disarmament is being waged. The USSR will stop producing highly enriched uranium for military purposes. With the shutdown of another two plutonium reactors—one was shut down in 1987—a significant step toward a complete halt to the production of fissionable material for military purposes is being taken. As far as chemical weapons are concerned, the construction of a plant for the destruction of such arms was agreed. The 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive weapons continues to top the agenda of Soviet-U.S. relations, as Mikhail Gorbachev pointed out.

As for the reduction of conventional armed forces and weapons, the socialist states announced these unilateral disarmament steps prior to the start of the Vienna talks. The question thus arises when NATO will supply an adequate reply. It continues to adhere to the outdated myth concerning the "threat from the East," which it uses to explain the need for the so-called deterrence doctrine, which provides for a nuclear first strike.

The actual balance of power is as follows: When including strategic nuclear armed forces, the Warsaw Pact has 5.3 million men, 10,500 aircraft, over 4,200 combat helicopters, 80,000 tanks, and 160 large surface ships. Except for tanks, NATO is in all these fields superior to the Warsaw Pact.

Irrespective of this, the West continues the arms race. NATO plans to "modernize" its tactical nuclear weapons. Gorbachev stressed in London that there is no doubt that if NATO starts to "modernize" its tactical nuclear weapons, this will have an impact on the Vienna talks, on confidence-building measures, and on the whole situation in Europe, and that this will devalue much of what has been achieved within the framework of the treaty on intermediate and short-range missiles. The USSR is strictly opposed to modernizing any type of nuclear weapon. It is not making efforts in this respect and it does not plan to do so unless it is forced to do so.

For this reason, one can only hope that common sense will continue to prevail in the West. "Modernization" is tantamount to resuming the arms race. Europe and the whole world, however, need disarmament to avert the danger of a nuclear inferno. The peoples want the diabolical things to disappear; they prefer armed forces that are only used for defense and not for attacks.

Certain politicians in the West will have to find answers to the question of whether they wish to reply to the new Soviet initiatives only with empty phrases like "steps in the right direction, but...." The peoples will no longer accept this destructive "but." They have been encouraged in their struggle for disarmament and peace by the most recent steps on the part of the USSR. It is worth using all one's strength in this struggle.

NATO's Modernization Concept Criticized

AU1904103289 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 18 Apr 89 p 2

["He." commentary: "Who Is Satisfied?"]

[Text] At the end of last week, the international commission for disarmament and security issues, which was founded by Olof Palme in 1980 and named after him, convened in Stockholm. It called for the replacement of the so-called nuclear deterrence by a concept of joint security. As a consequence, it welcomed negotiations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO on tactical nuclear weapons, as proposed by the foreign ministers of our alliance in Berlin.

Of course, a favorable political atmosphere for such negotiations aimed at eliminating the hellish nuclear devices in stages would only be created if both sides refrained from modernizing tactical nuclear weapons.

The Soviet army paper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported on Sunday [16 April] that there are two types of ground-based tactical missiles: on the one hand, a 1965 model

with a range of up to 300 km, on the other hand 1975 models with ranges from 70-100 km. As competent USSR military circles reported, the modernization of these tactical nuclear weapons has been discontinued since 1 January 1987.

Unfortunately, things are different in the West. Influential circles in the NATO leadership took different positions—against the population's declared will, objections in governments, and the rejection by the parliaments of several member states. They continue to promote the old lie about a threat. They stick to the concept of "deterrence" aimed at the first use of nuclear weapons and they advocate the modernization of tactical nuclear weapons.

For example, the FRG paper DIE WELT reported yesterday that U.S. General Galvin, NATO commander-in-chief for Europe, calls for "(offensive) planes equipped with nuclear missiles, in addition to the successor model for the Lance short-range missiles, with a range increased to almost 500 km." Not only a qualitative, but also a quantitative increase in nuclear armament is planned—200 nuclear "launchers" for the 88 Lance missiles! These are not merely declarations of intent. Over the weekend, the FRG news agency DPA reported: "The development of new nuclear weapons is progressing satisfactorily."

Satisfactorily? Of course, the arms profiteers will be satisfied, just like that clique of generals who dreams of military superiority over the East and those politicians who believe they are capable of militarily and politically blackmailing the East. However, the peoples of the NATO states are very dissatisfied—there is much proof of this. And just how satisfied several governments of the alliance will be, regarding an issue that is already very controversial now, will soon become apparent since before the end of the week the NATO Nuclear Planning Group convenes and the NATO summit will be held at the end of May. It will not be possible to disregard the Warsaw Pact's disarmament proposals....

Galvin Ridiculed on Lance Modernization Stance
AU2004131689 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 19 Apr 89 p 2

["G.P." report: "Simple Fraudulent Labelling"]

[Text] U.S. General Galvin, commander in chief of NATO Forces in Europe, turns out to be a real sales genius. To make the "modernization" of tactical nuclear weapons palatable to the public, he does not hesitate to label them as a "contribution to disarmament." "Not only the fact that improved Lance missiles are a military imperative (!), but also the fact that they make the reduction of the number and effect of warheads possible is something the politicians have to understand and explain to the public," he stated in an interview for the U.S. paper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. In plain language: A major arms buildup is necessary to make disarmament perhaps possible.

The four-star general was disappointed that neither the international public nor entire parties, parliaments, and prominent government representatives of NATO countries are able and willing to follow. Opinion polls in the FRG, Belgium, the Netherlands, and other states show that by no means do 80 percent of the population regard the "modernization" of Lance missiles as a "military imperative," but as a wrong step in the wrong direction, especially in view of the example set by the INF Treaty and the chances resulting from the reduction of conventional armed forces and armaments in Europe.

As is known, it is the objective of the Vienna negotiations to reduce the military balance to a considerably lower level and to exclude the possibility of surprise and offensive operations. However, precisely this would be jeopardized if NATO were to deploy a new generation of nuclear first-strike weapons at the dividing line of the two alliances. According to Galvin, the missiles planned as a substitute for the Lance missiles with a 110-km range have "a higher precision, greater penetration, a longer range (little less than 500 km), and greater variability in their effect."

Thus, the NATO commander in chief, certainly unintentionally, has confirmed the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers' latest assessment made in Berlin: Tactical nuclear weapons constitute a potential war risk and destabilize the military balance. Galvin's comment provides an additional argument for our proposal to NATO as regards the start of separate negotiations on the reduction and elimination of these nuclear weapons.

HUNGARY

Partial Soviet Troop Withdrawal Set for 25 Apr

Soviet, Hungarian Commanders Hold Press Conference

LD2104173389 Budapest MTI in English 1623 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Text] Budapest, April 21 (MTI)—The partial withdrawal of the Soviet Southern Army Group temporarily stationed in Hungary is to begin on April 25. Under the unilateral Soviet decision, which was announced earlier, the pullout will concern more than 10,000 soldiers, 450 tanks, 200 guns and trench mortars and 3,000 various types of motor vehicles.

Colonel-General Lajos Morocz, under-secretary of state at the Ministry of Defence, and Colonel-General Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Southern Army Group, informed the international press on the troop withdrawal schedule, in Budapest on Friday [21 April].

Further Details on Press Conference

LD2104200689 Budapest Domestic Service
in Hungarian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Text] In 4 days, or more precisely, on 25 April at 0600 [0400 GMT], the partial withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary will get under way. Miklos Martin-Kovacs attended the news conference at the Ministry of Defense:

[Martin-Kovacs] In a few days we will once again be part of an international political process. Mikhail Gorbachev announced at the end of last year a unilateral Soviet disarmament measure. Colonel General Lajos Morocz, state secretary at the Ministry of Defense, said the following about this:

[Begin Morocz recording] The unilateral Soviet troop reduction that has already been announced, and within this the partial withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of the allied socialist countries, including our homeland, is an important step in the strengthening of European confidence and security and the realization of the defensive doctrine. [end recording]

[Martin-Kovacs] Col Gen Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Soviet Southern Army Group temporarily stationed in Hungary, also discussed the details of the plan:

[Begin Burlakov recording in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation] Ladies and gentlemen, comrades, my friends. I report that in harmony with the decision of the Soviet Government concerning the unilateral reduction of armed forces and armaments, 22 units are to be withdrawn from the territory of the Hungarian People's Republic, and that these units will be eliminated. These will include the entire 13th Armored Division—this means 13 units—one training armored regiment, one commando battalion, one air force fighter unit, a chemical defense battalion, one school for noncommissioned officers, and four independent units. [end recording]

[Martin-Kovacs] Col Gen Burlakov went on to explain that the withdrawal will affect approximately 10,000 individuals. About 450 tanks, more than 200 artillery pieces and trench mortars, and over 3,000 vehicles, fighter planes, and other military equipment will be withdrawn in two stages—that is, by May 1990. Several of us have asked what these figures mean in relation to those forces remaining here. The reply: Approximately a quarter of the present personnel and about a third of the tanks will be withdrawn. Eight barracks will be handed over in their entirety and two partially to the Hungarian side. Specialists have begun to estimate the value of the real estate concerned, and a decision will be made at the governmental level with regard to which side is to pay—and how much—to the other. It is certain that the barracks by the Esztergom Basilica will be vacated. The

Hungarian Government will have to decide on the fate of the buildings. State Secretary Lajos Morocz said that any requests in this respect would have to be addressed to Hungarian officials.

It was asked whether the intergovernmental agreement on the stationing of Soviet forces here had changed during the past 32 years. Well, it turned out that it had not changed. The state secretary said that this was because no need to change it had arisen. He at the same time showed the yellowed document dating from 1957.

POLAND

Chief CSCE Delegate Writes on Vienna Talks

AU2903155689 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish
24 Mar 89 p 6

[Article by Wlodzimierz Konarski, head of the Polish delegation to the Vienna CSCE talks: "A Good Start"]

[Excerpts] The start of the Vienna CSCE talks indicates that the centuries-old maxim "si vis pacem, para bellum" ("if you want peace, prepare for war") may soon become invalid. If one wants peace today, one must construct joint European security based on an agreement that will lead to the removal of military threats from our continent. The words of Polish Foreign Minister Tadeusz Olechowski about excessive military potentials being an "uncomfortable corset" that restricts the freedom of movement are frequently being repeated in Vienna. [passage omitted]

Poland possesses a long and good tradition of active involvement in disarmament dialogue. However, the latest talks are more than just dialogue—and everyone knows that there is a great need for this dialogue. All over Europe, public opinion is expecting rapid results from these talks. It is in our Polish interest to achieve these results, and not just by means of dialogue with the West, but also by means of intelligent talks with our Warsaw Pact allies, among whom there are different proposals and concepts, just like within the North Atlantic alliance.

The Vienna talks may affect not only the condition and future of Polish security, but also the future of Europe, which is supposed to be devoid of danger and the possibility of using force, with all the attendant consequences of such a situation. Assuring Poland's proper place in this kind of Europe and safeguarding its political interests and defensive credibility are values that cannot be overestimated. The gradual attainment of joint security in Europe and the pursuance of an energetic disarmament diplomacy that serves these objectives requires fuller and closer coordination between national and allied defensive doctrines and foreign policy and diplomacy. Everything indicates that this new path of thought will permit the more effective defense of our interests in a changing Europe.

If the West also wants to avail itself of the Vienna opportunities, then a first accord on profound reductions in military potentials may be possible during the next 2-3 years.

Vice Foreign Minister Jaroszek Addresses Geneva Disarmament Conference

*LD1304151989 Warsaw PAP in English
1252 GMT 13 Apr 89*

[Text] Geneva, April 13—Addressing the Geneva Disarmament Conference, Polish Foreign Vice-Minister Henryk Jaroszek said Thursday that this year's session (of the conference) has started in a favourable international atmosphere that promised concrete results.

Speaking about Poland's stand on the work of the conference, Jaroszek stressed that priority should be given to the conclusion of work on a convention on the complete ban on chemical weapons and the liquidation of their stockpiles. Poland has been actively participating in this work, he said and added that the Polish side chaired three times the extraordinary committee of the conference for chemical weapons.

Poland is ready to join the convention the moment it is laid out for signature, as we think that it will have an important positive impact on the whole of the international situation. This would mean the elimination of a category of the mass destruction weapons, the international multilateral recognition of the concept of on-demand inspection without the right to refuse and a confirmation of the importance of many-side disarmament efforts, he said.

The speaker presented these activities by the Polish Government that are Poland's original contribution to the process of disarmament and consolidation of peace and security mainly in Europe. Among them there are unilateral cuts in the Polish Armed Forces and armaments. The Polish delegation is also active at the Vienna negotiations of 23 and 35 countries while Poland is developing its new attitude towards the question of disarmament, contained in the Jaruzelski plan on decreasing armaments and increasing confidence in central Europe, Jaroszek said.

ROMANIA

Ceausescu Speaks International Situation, Disarmament

*AU1404192989 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
1845 GMT 14 Apr 89*

[“Nicolae Ceausescu on the Current International Situation”—AGERPRES headline]

[Excerpts] Bucharest AGERPRES 14/4/1989—The international life continues to be complex, contradictory and serious, Nicolae Ceausescu said in the speech he delivered on April 14 at the end of the plenary meeting of

the CC [Central Committee] of the RCP [Romanian Communist Party]. The conclusion of understandings on the reduction of nuclear weapons between the Soviet Union and the United States of America, the beginning of the Vienna talks on the reduction of conventional arms in Europe, the cessation of conflicts and the conclusion of understandings on the negotiated settlement of conflicts give mankind many hopes as concerns the possibility of striking further accords and understandings to ease the way to the elimination of war from the life of mankind, to the ensurance of a lasting peace. However, one cannot overlook the fact that the nuclear-weapon countries more particularly the United States of America and the Soviet Union, have huge stockpiles of nuclear weapons of various types, which can destroy the whole mankind and life on our planet several times over. The NATO continues to talk about the modernization of a whole range of short-range missiles, and nuclear tests and research into outer space militarization continue, too.

The threat of a nuclear war, which, I should like to repeat it, will lead to the destruction of mankind and of living conditions on our planet, will persist as long as nuclear weapons are maintained.

That is why, the fundamental issues of our epoch are cessation of the nuclear arms race and the achievement of a passage to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons in several stages. Nuclear tests and the outer space militarization programme should be given up and so should the modernization of shorter-range missiles by the NATO and the Warsaw Pact countries, under a corresponding international control, and the political outlook on the “ensurance of peace” through nuclear deterrence, which actually is the outlook on the war of domination, should be renounced.

The threat posed by nuclear ships and submarines, the recent serious accident when a Soviet submarine carrying nuclear weapons sank, but then, also the previous accidents when American vessels sank, prove the correctness of the peoples' demand for an end to the presence of nuclear ships in international waters, and even more serious are the flights of aircraft carrying nuclear weapons, which should also stop. We should work in all firmness to put an end to any action jeopardizing life and civilization on our planet.

Furthermore, we state firmly for the elimination of chemical weapons, along with nuclear weapons, for a radical, substantial cut in conventional arms, under a strict international control, and for the reduction of military spending by at least 50 percent until the 2000s, the means thus released being used both for the resolution of serious social issues in the respective countries and for aid to the developing countries. [passage omitted]

Recalling that Romania had always declared firmly for a Europe united in the diversity of its social systems, which should ensure the economic and social development of every nation, without any outside interference, Nicolae Ceausescu said: When we declare for a united Europe we do not mean a Europe of military blocs or of economic blocs, since this is not in the interest of any people, we mean a Europe of cooperation among free, independent nations. This will actually ensure Europe's force of progress and civilization.

In the development of collaboration and cooperation in Europe, the decisions adopted at the Vienna meeting this year should in no way be used by circles of countries as a means of interference in states' affairs. Every European country, just as all the countries of the world, have to solve many economic, social problems, humanitarian included. No one can claim to have the right to impose his way of thinking and solving problems. Such a way is doomed to failure and can only lead to tension in interstate relations. Only cooperation on the principles of fully equal rights, noninterference in domestic affairs, mutual assistance and reciprocally advantageous economic cooperation meets the interests of all peoples—and it alone secures the progress of each and every nation.

President Nicolae Ceausescu was firmly for a broad cooperation among the Balkan countries and for the transformation of the region into a zone without nuclear and chemical weapons, foreign military bases, showing that Romania backed the creation of such zones in northern and central Europe just as on other continents. [passage omitted]

We also attach great importance to the Nonaligned Movement and we hope that the meeting due this year will mark a new moment in enhancing the unity and the might of the Nonaligned Movement for the new democratic policy of disarmament, peace, cooperation among all the world nations, the speaker said.

In his speech Nicolae Ceausescu declared for the strengthening of the cooperation of all the small and medium-sized countries, for their active participation in the international countries, for their active participation in the international life, for an enhanced role of the United Nations Organization, of other international bodies in the democratic settlement of all the problems concerning mankind at present.

He expressed the belief that by working jointly, the progressive, antiimperialist forces, the peoples everywhere can bring about a change in the course of events, impose a disarmament and peace policy, a new policy of full equality among all the nations of the world. [passage omitted]

Romanian Envoy Addresses Geneva Disarmament Conference

AU1504142689 Bucharest AGERPRES in English
0818 GMT 15 Apr 89

["Romanian Representative' Address at Geneva Disarmament Conference"—AGERPRES headline]

[Text] Geneva AGERPRES, 15/4/1989—Speaking at this year's session of the Disarmament Conference devoted to the elaboration of a global disarmament program, the Romanian representative showed that disarmament issues should be approached in a unitary way so that accords and measures in this field constitute parts of an aggregate of actions meant to contribute to stability worldwide, not affecting the principle of equal state security to ensure an as stable as possible balance of forces, at ever lower levels. Reference was made to the Romanian concept on the implementation of a complex disarmament program, centered on nuclear disarmament and which should contain measures for the limitation of chemical weapons, other weapons of mass destruction, as well as measures of substantial cuts in conventional arms, troops and military budgets. It was stressed that international peace and security could not be secured through isolated action, by banning and eliminating only one category of arms or another or by maintaining the so-called "nuclear deterrent" or other conceptions promoting the arms race. On the contrary—the speaker pointed out—security can be achieved only through disarmament in all fields, by banning and eliminating nuclear arms, chemical arms and other arms of mass destruction in a comprehensive and coherent process. The question is not to keep still negotiations in any domain but to make progress in all domains.

Emphasis was placed on the continent importance Romania attached to the elaboration and finalization of the global disarmament program at the conference, an action initiated back in 1978. Such a document is meant to give an all-out image on the component parts and aims of disarmament and on the planning of efforts of the international community in time, of measures and actions in this field.

The global disarmament program, the speaker showed, an ideal framework providing for the coherent and connected efforts and measures endorsed bilaterally, regionally and worldwide and also a means and guarantee of all world states' participation and involvement in the disarmament process.

The Romanian representative put forth specific considerations and proposals for the acceleration and finalization of the negotiations in the special committee and its working groups in charge of the elaboration of the draft programme.

ARGENTINA

Crespo on Condor Project, Armed Forces' Role

*PY1404194489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
1346 GMT 14 Apr 89*

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 14 Apr (TELAM)—Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier General Ernesto Crespo has said that “in the last few years, the members of the military have changed a lot and they have been reintegrated into society.” He also categorically rejected the possibility that “the Armed Forces will take part in an eventual coup d’etat.”

He also denied that there is any connection between the negotiations he and Defense Minister Jaunarena carried out during their recent trip aboard and the halting of the development of the so-called Condor project. Crespo said that “the issue was not discussed in any of the countries we visited (Israel, the FRG, and Spain).”

He expressed his concern over the fact that “the Argentine media is responsible for discussing this issue, which should be decided strictly by Argentines.”

Crespo said that with this news report—according to which Israel will lift the embargo on the delivery of planes purchased by Argentina if Argentina drops the Condor project—“we are informing the world about a nonexistent situation.”

For several years Argentina has been developing a prototype called Condor II, a medium-range rocket used to place satellites in orbit 500 km from earth. Iraq and Egypt are cooperating in this project.

Answering a question, Crespo said: “I do not believe the Armed Forces will ever take part in a coup d’etat, because the Armed Forces have learned a lesson the hard way: To be rejected by your society is something terrible.”

He asserted that the military “has been reintegrated into society. They seriously believe that the country must find a political solution to pull it out of the crisis. The military must help to find this solution because it is part of Argentine society.” [passage omitted]

BRAZIL

Sonda IV Rocket Test Launch Set for 27 Apr

*PY2004041289 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese
2200 GMT 19 Apr 89*

[Text] Barreira do Inferno is preparing to launch the fourth model of the Sonda IV rocket. The launch on 27 April will serve to test the operational qualifications of the rocket. In the future this rocket will serve as a satellite launching vehicle.

The Sonda IV has been fully manufactured in Brazil and developed by the Space Activities Institute of the Aerospace Technology Center in Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo State.

INDIA

Agni Missile Test 'Should Not Cause Any Concern'

*BK1704160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Apr 89*

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman asserted in New Delhi today that the proposed test-firing of an Agni missile is a demonstration of the technology which India wishes to develop.

Responding to queries from newsmen, he said it is an integrated guided missile program, which is indigenous, for meeting some of the operational requirements of defense services. It does not amount to introduction of a weapon system. He said it should not cause any concern to anyone.

Test Launch of Agni IRBM Postponed from 20 Apr

Officials Cited on Preparations

*BK2004133489 Hong Kong AFP in English
1308 GMT 20 Apr 89*

[Text] New Delhi, April 20 (AFP)—Indian defence experts postponed the launch Thursday [20 April] of the country's first indigenously-built ballistic missile, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) called Agni (Fire) was due to be test-fired Thursday from a launch pad in the Chandipur area, 150 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of Calcutta.

PTI reported from the test site that experts had cancelled the launch for the day. Reasons for the postponement were not known.

A Defence Ministry spokesman in New Delhi said preparations were on to launch Agni sometime before Sunday.

"Preparations for the test are continuing," the spokesman said, but added that he had no news of the cancellation.

The missile, which has a flight-range of 2,500 kilometres (1,560 miles), was scheduled for launch between 7 a.m. (0130 GMT) and 2 p.m. (0830 GMT) Thursday.

A light drizzle fell on the site Wednesday, according to PTI, but ministry officials here said they did not have information about bad weather in Chandipur.

Agni is targeted to land in the Bay of Bengal between Sri Lanka and India's Andaman group of islands. The target zone was declared off-limits Thursday to fishing vessels and merchant ships, defence officials in Calcutta said on the telephone.

Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant, his deputy Chintamani Panigrahi and several top defence experts and scientists have already reached the launch site, they said.

The final countdown for Agni's launch began late Wednesday after hundreds of villagers were shifted 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) from the area as a precaution, the officials told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Angry residents Wednesday prevented military personnel from digging trenches in three neighbouring villages declared part of a "safety-zone," but some 650 farming families living close to the launch site agreed to quit their homes for one day, they said.

Previous attempts to launch Agni from Chandipur had been scuttled by fierce resistance from some 10,000 villagers in the area who have expressed fears that the test might destroy their crops and homes.

India's IRBM, which has the capacity to carry a one-ton payload, can be armed with atomic warheads and used to launch civilian satellites into space, defence experts say.

The missile, developed by the state-owned Defence Research and Development Laboratory, features a first-stage solid propellant engine and a second-stage liquid fuel motor.

The first-stage engine with a range of 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) used in the Agni missile is similar to the one used in conventional satellite launch vehicles.

India is bidding to join the United States, the Soviet Union, France, China, Britain and Israel among countries with their own IRBM's.

India successfully test-fired an indigenously-built short-range tactical missile called Prithvi (Earth) which had a range of 250 kilometres (155 miles) on February 25, 1988.

Technical Fault Delays Launch

*BK2104062589 Hong Kong AFP in English
0607 GMT 21 Apr 89*

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 21 (AFP)—A technical fault led to the last-moment postponement of Thursday's [20 April] launch of India's indigenously-built ballistic missile, a Defence Ministry spokesman said here Friday.

"We don't know what the snag is, but now it seems that there is no possibility for its launch today (Friday)," the spokesman said.

However he said preparations were continuing to test-fire the ballistic missile called Agni (Fire) before Sunday. "We will announce when it is fired."

Scientists temporarily aborted plans to test-fire the intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM), which was scheduled to be launched from Chandipur area, 150 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of Calcutta, the spokesman said.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Agni's launch was aborted just seven seconds before the scheduled time. "It resulted in the Agni test-firing being put off indefinitely," the agency reported from the launch site in eastern Orissa State.

The INDIAN EXPRESS newspaper said technical snags in its ignition system was the cause for the last moment cancellation, but the spokesman said he could not confirm the report.

Scores of defence experts tried to rectify the error but dropped plans to launch the missile at about 4 p.m. (1030 GMT) Thursday, PTI quoted official sources as saying in Chandipur.

The missile, which has a flight range of 2,500 kilometres (1,560 miles), was scheduled for launching between 7 a.m. (0130 GMT) and 2 p.m. (0830 GMT).

It was targetted to land in the Bay of Bengal between Sri Lanka and India's Andaman group of islands. The target zone was declared off-limits Thursday to fishing vessels and merchant ships.

Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant and his deputy Chintamani Panigrahi were reported to be camping at the launch site and officials could not say if they would return to New Delhi because of the postponement. [passage omitted]

Launch By 23 Apr Planned

*BK2004155789 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Apr 89*

[Text] Preparations for the test launch of the medium range missile Agni [Fire] from the launch site in Orissa are continuing.

A Defense Ministry spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the launch will take place any time between now and Sunday.

Test Postponed Until May

*BK2304151589 Hong Kong AFP in English
1504 GMT 23 Apr 89*

[Text] New Delhi, April 23 (AFP)—Indian defence experts have postponed the launch of the country's first ballistic missile until May after aborting the blast-off four times since Thursday [20 April], reports said here Sunday [23 April].

Defence scientists have decided to test-fire the intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) called Agni (Fire) sometime within the first two weeks of next month, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. The exact date of the test-firing would be notified three days before the launch, PTI quoted officials at the launch pad in eastern Orissa State as saying.

"We would launch the missile when it could give us the best of results," a top technological advisor to the Indian Government told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in New Delhi. There is absolutely nothing wrong with Agni but we would launch it only when we are satisfied it would give a 100 percent data feedback instead of, say, 95 percent," the official said. "Otherwise there is no point in firing it," he said, adding that the missile launch was planned as a "technological demonstration and not to make an impression."

The Defence Ministry has said the launch of its IRBM was aimed at testing its "control and guidance systems" and did not amount to induction of a weapon. Defence experts on the last moments of the final countdown abandoned Thursday's launch of the domestically built missile and postponed it again on Friday, Saturday and Sunday following unspecified technical snags. The official denied news reports that the launch has been temporarily abandoned because of technical snags in Agni's ignition system or that anti-missile protesters had sabotaged power connections to the launch pad in Orissa State.

"All this (publicity) is very embarrassing for India," the official added.

The IRBM, which has a flight range of 2,500 kilometres (1,560 miles) and can be armed with nuclear warheads or launch civilian satellites, is to be test-fired from Chandipur, 150 kilometres (90 miles) southwest from Calcutta. Agni is targetted to land in the Bay of Bengal between Sri Lanka and India's Andaman Islands. The target zone has been declared off-limits to fishing vessels and merchant ships. Civilian aircraft have been banned from flying over Agni's scheduled flight-path.

India successfully test-fired a domestically-built tactical missile called Prithvi (Earth), which has a range of 250 kilometres (155 miles), on February 25, 1988. But the country's civilian space programme suffered a setback five months later when an augmented satellite launch vehicle crashed into the Bay of Bengal 150 seconds after take-off.

IRAQ

Mideast Zone Free of Nuclear, Chemical Weapons Urged at CD Session

*JN1904124289 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0800 GMT 19 Apr 89*

[Excerpt] Geneva, 19 Apr (INA)—Iraq has called for declaring the Middle East a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons [CW] and other weapons of mass

destruction, with the condition that all parties in the region, including the Zionist entity, should sign the effective treaties such as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In a speech last night before the first ordinary session of the Conference on Disarmament of 1989, currently being held here, Rahim 'Abd al-Katl, head of the Iraqi delegation, said that the objective of nuclear disarmament is to reinforce world peace and security.

He added that the results of the disarmament process should not benefit a single state or a group of states at the expense of other states. He said that all states should enjoy security at all times.

Al-Katl stressed that the special nature of every region in the world must be taken into consideration when measures of disarmament are adopted so that these measures will be simultaneous and cover all weapons of mass destruction. [passage omitted]

ISRAEL

Agreement With U.S. on 'Star Wars' Project
TA3103151689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The United States and Israel have signed an agreement for the establishment of a computerized research center in Israel that will develop systems in the framework of the Star Wars project. Some \$35 million will be invested in the center over the next 5 years, with the United States financing over 70 percent of it.

Third Battery of U.S. Cruise Missiles Withdrawn From Italy

*LD1904210889 Moscow TASS in English
2050 GMT 19 Apr 89*

[Text] Rome April 19 TASS—In accordance with the Soviet-American INF Treaty, the third battery of cruise missiles was withdrawn on Wednesday from the NATO base in Comiso, the Ragusa Province. A total of 48 cruise missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads have been taken away from the base by U.S. special planes since the beginning of their elimination. The remaining 64 missiles are to be dismantled in the coming two years.

Reporting this fact, the ANSA news agency pointed out that neither press photographers, nor film-makers had been allowed to shoot the dismantling and transportation of the missiles under the pretext of "observing security norms".

U.S. Inspectors View Machine-Building Plant To Check INF Compliance

*LD2004094189 Moscow TASS in English
0916 GMT 20 Apr 89*

[Text] Alma-Ata April 20 TASS—A group of American inspectors visited a heavy-machine building plant in northern Kazakhstan, a republic in the Soviet Unions Asian part, to monitor compliance with the Soviet-American INF Treaty.

The Treaty, signed in Washington in December 1987, envisages the elimination of Soviet and American intermediate - and shorter-range missiles.

"We are pleased with the results of the inspection," said the head of the inspection group, Col. Thomas Brock.

The Soviet and American sides had complete mutual understanding, he added. "I think that our trip has helped to make one more step towards peace."

The chief engineer of the Petropavlosk facility, Boris Kolesnikov, observed that the American visitors went everywhere they thought necessary and saw everything they wanted to see.

He stressed the fact that another delegation, representing a bicycle-making company in Yugoslavia, visited the plant, previously closed to foreigners, on the same days.

Talks were started during the visit on starting the co-production of children's bikes. The plant has begun implementing a large-scale programme of manufacturing consumer goods.

Preparations are under way for producing a large batch of grain loaders, canning factory equipment and baby food packaging lines.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

NATO Secretary General Woerner Views East-West Ties

PM1904130589 Lisbon DIARIO DE NOTICIAS
in Portuguese 4 Apr 89 pp 9-10

[Interview with NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner by Fernando de Sousa in Brussels; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

Source of Global Stability

[de Sousa] How do you view this 40th NATO anniversary and the results achieved in the course of the alliance's existence?

[Woerner] I believe that this alliance's foremost—and also most important—success is obviously the fact that we have preserved peace for 40 years. It is the longest period of peace in Europe's history since the Roman Empire. Moreover, the alliance has been a source of global stability. I would also like to add that, without this alliance, we would have had no change in the Eastern bloc. This means that the success of this alliance and of its member states, the success of our society and of our economies—in short, of our democracy—has in fact caused a change in the Soviet Union to become necessary. I would even venture to say that, without NATO, there would be no perestroika. And I would also add something else. I cannot imagine the process of European unification without the role played by this alliance in creating a kind of cover, in whose shelter Europe has been able to prosper and unite. So I am convinced that this 40th anniversary demonstrates the historic triumph of this alliance, which represents a source of vitality and vigor.

[de Sousa] But we are now in a period of change; a time which, as you have written, NATO must face "with courage, a spirit of openness, and imagination." How is NATO going to react to the very clear evolution in the Soviet Union?

Woerner: That is a good question, since I am now looking toward the future. The 40th anniversary is obviously an important cause not only for looking back and congratulating ourselves but also for looking forward, to the role which this alliance is going to play.

The first role which I see for the alliance is that of being an instrument of change: This means that we should not just quietly observe what is happening in the Eastern bloc; we should cooperate with the forces in the Eastern bloc—in the Soviet Union and in the other East European countries—which are trying to develop their economies and political system in the direction of greater pluralism, greater freedom, and greater respect for human rights. What we need to do is to encourage

through cooperation in all fields—economic, cultural, and political—a change in the direction of our view of a free and undivided Europe in which all peoples would enjoy autonomy to determine their destinies. The second role is still that of creating a framework for stability—the basis of security and support for this historic process of change. As you can see, we are in a period of very rapid transition, and these periods are always associated historically with dangers; so this alliance—our alliance—must ensure that the only way for the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc to achieve progress is reform by peaceful means—not military adventurism. This means that we must prevent recourse to the use of force.

If anybody asserts that the threat has disappeared or says that this alliance no longer has a *raison d'être*, I reply that this is not so: On the contrary, if we want change in an atmosphere of peace, we must reject recourse to force, and this means that we must keep up our defense—obviously, at lower levels, if possible, and with the same ceilings. That is the aim of our arms control policy.

USSR's Current Intentions Are Peaceful

[de Sousa] Do you believe that the threat has disappeared?

[Woerner] That depends on what we understand by "threat." I believe that there are two aspects to what is normally classified as a threat—on the one hand, capability; on the other, intentions.

I believe that the intentions of the current Soviet leadership led by Mikhail Gorbachev are peaceful. They have no prospect of launching a war. Why should they do so? Right now, they are trying to focus the Soviet Union's energies on peaceful reforms. I have no doubts about their current intentions. However, the capability, the strength, and the military machine still exist. It is an overwhelming, gigantic capability. So we must protect ourselves. We can never be certain about intentions; they could change tomorrow. The people could change. We cannot be certain of Gorbachev's success; we hope that he is successful, but we cannot be certain of his success. We cannot even be certain that he will stay in power. And even if he stays in power, we have no guarantee, either, that he will not change his mind. So we must ensure that, whatever happens in the Soviet Union, we can count on a strong defense; this must be achieved by us. And I believe that a distinction must be drawn about the idea of a threat, since most people view a threat as an imminent danger of war: There is no imminent danger of war, but there is still a potential capability which could be used, and if we lower our guard, perhaps there would be a temptation to use it.

[de Sousa] What about the possibility of new threats of different kinds? For instance, the Middle East and Iran could currently seem more threatening than the Soviet Union....

[Woerner] I do not believe that these areas threaten peace in Europe at present. Obviously, the stability of these regions is a source of concern for us; we live in a world in which security and stability can only really be considered in global terms. Therefore we want these areas to be stable, too, but I do not believe that there is an immediate danger for Europe's military security. However, keeping up our guard is also an important principle when we look at the global development of another kind of threat.

[de Sousa] How do you view Henry Kissinger's idea, currently being aired in the United States, of an agreement on Eastern Europe between the West and the Soviet Union (aiming at Moscow's loosening its control over the satellite countries while the West undertakes not to take advantage of that fact in order to jeopardize Soviet security)?

[Woerner] Here again I would like to make a reply with a distinction. There are elements which I deem acceptable. Eastern Europe's future must be discussed with the Soviet Union. The future of the security framework which we want involves, on the one hand, the United States and Canada, and, on the other, the Soviet Union. We must also develop a view of the future of the whole of Europe, because Europe does not end at the Iron Curtain but includes the other part of my own country—Germany—Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and all the other East European states. It is also clear that, whatever happens in the Eastern bloc, we want not revolution but evolution, and that we will respect the Soviet Union's security interests. I believe that all these elements are highly valid.

On the other hand, I do not believe that it would be sensible to look at Eastern Europe paternalistically. Those countries should have the right to determine their own future, just as we do. Those are our values. We cannot say to them: "It is I who am in control." Nor can we say that "we—the West and the East together, including the Soviet Union—control your development."

I do not like this kind of paternalism or control over events (and this to some extent means thwarting them), and hence collusion.

I am not referring specifically to Kissinger's idea, but I do not believe that any kind of new Yalta conference to determine spheres of influence would be a good idea. I do not believe that historical dynamics can be controlled or thwarted through agreements of that kind.

I also have my doubts as to whether the Soviet Union would be interested in this, but even if such an agreement were concluded, this would mean that to some extent we would be entering into a kind of collusion with the Soviet Union to influence the historic process of Eastern Europe's free development.

These are elements which I do not accept and which I do not believe are useful and peaceful means for a change.

Minimum Arms Necessary For Deterrence

[de Sousa] Let us look at the effects of the change in Europe. Do you believe that there are differences of opinion and ideas or disagreements among the various European states on arms modernization or the attitude to be adopted toward the Soviet Union?

[Woerner] Obviously, there are different opinions. They have always existed throughout our history. If we did not have different viewpoints, we would not be an alliance of sovereign states. That is the difference between us and the Warsaw Pact. We have different viewpoints and the freedom to have them. And we will continue to have them. But we will also seek solutions, and I am convinced that we will find them. They will be compromise solutions; that is, taking all the member states into account. So I do not foresee any deep disagreement; what I foresee is compromise solutions to the problems.

[de Sousa] Do you support the idea of the modernization of missiles by the West?

[Woerner] We are in a decisionmaking process, but what I support is a general idea that we should maintain only the minimum level of arms necessary for defense and deterrence, with the aim of guaranteeing peace. That minimum level must be kept updated, otherwise it will make no sense. What must be decided is what kind of arms and nuclear structure are to be maintained in the future. The decisions on this rest with the overall consensus and the summit.

As this alliance's secretary general, I would not like to anticipate the heads of state and government.

[de Sousa] Recently, during contacts with several circles in the alliance, I seemed to note on the part of FRG representatives a certain impression that they are not being properly understood by their allies as regards the stances adopted in their country on the modernization issue; contrary to what has been said, they rejected the idea that there is a "German problem." As secretary general and also as a German, do you believe that the FRG has had proper support and understanding as regards arms modernization?

[Woerner] It has had very fair treatment. The FRG is an important part of this alliance. Its interests will be taken into account; there is no doubt about this. From what I have been able to ascertain, all the allies are aware of the FRG's special position. The FRG knows this, and the FRG Government has acted accordingly. The allies' unity, solidarity, and defense obviously mean that we must find a very clear line and follow it.

[de Sousa] But is the FRG the only West European country in which there are disagreements about modernization?

[Woerner] No. There are also disagreements in other countries. The fact is that everybody looks at the FRG because it is more exposed to the Eastern bloc. But there are other countries in which doubts about modernization are evident—perhaps not about modernization itself but about the time for its implementation—its timing.

[de Sousa] Let us now talk about the relationship between NATO's European pillar and the United States. There have been pressures in Congress to reduce the presence of the U.S. forces in Europe, and also for a change in financial burden-sharing, so that the Europeans would make a larger contribution to defense expenditure.

[Woerner] Let me begin with the latter aspect. I believe that it is reasonable for the United States to advocate Europe's taking responsibility for a greater share of the burdens; and I am not referring just to those of a financial nature. This involves a great deal more: In a study which we have just published we can find an extensive and detailed description of the dangers, roles, and responsibilities. It is reasonable because, if you look at present-day Europe, there is an enormous difference in political and economic power, compared with the Europe of 40 years ago. Present-day Europe's role within the alliance is much more important. So I believe that it is reasonable for the United States to demand more balanced burden-sharing. With respect to the first part of the question, I do not believe that any substantial reduction in the U.S. presence (in Europe) will occur. Why? In the first place, because it would save the Americans no money; if they kept those forces in the United States, they would be just as expensive. Second, because the Americans know that those troops are here not just to defend Europe but to defend the United States, and—what is even more important—to ensure that no war is begun again in Europe. It is better for the United States not to repeat the historic mistake which it made by withdrawing from Europe and then needing to return in order to fight another war. It is better for it to stay in Europe and prevent a war.

Improve Cooperation With Portugal

[de Sousa] In the final part of this conversation, I would like to cite the special case of Portugal and its role in the alliance. There have been reports in various Portuguese media that the Armed Forces are not properly equipped to perform the tasks expected of them. How do you view the possibility of greater financial support for the modernization of the Portuguese Armed Forces?

[Woerner] I am very much in favor of increased support from NATO member countries for Portugal and the other states with less resources, such as Greece and Turkey. I will continue to encourage other member states

to join the United States and the FRG in supporting those countries. I have already requested an examination of ways to improve cooperation (in other fields, too) in order to help modernize those countries' forces.

[de Sousa] Do you agree with the allegations that right now the Portuguese Armed Forces do not have adequate equipment?

[Woerner] I am acquainted with the Portuguese Armed Forces from my own experience as defense minister and as an FRG reserve officer, having carried out some of my military exercises in Portugal. I have great respect for the Portuguese troops' professionalism and dedication, but there is no doubt that their equipment needs to be improved, and this has already been clearly stated by their own country. Various projects of which I have knowledge and which I supported in my capacity as defense minister are now under way, and others will follow.

[de Sousa] There are some people in Portugal who allege that U.S. military aid for Greece and Turkey has been given priority over Portugal. Do you agree with these allegations?

[Woerner] No, I disagree. It is clear that it is necessary to take into account the size of those forces and other factors, but I do not believe that they are being given priority. As for Portugal, I will make my liking for your country quite clear. The more that is obtained, the happier I am. Hence I am in favor of increased aid and have hopes of winning the other states' support. Not just those two (the United States and the FRG, already cited); I believe that the Dutch are considering the possibility of giving some kind of aid. And others will join in.

[de Sousa] In the changes expected in NATO, adjusting to the new times and challenges, are you considering the possibility of changes also in Portugal's role as a member state?

[Woerner] I am convinced that Portugal, as a loyal and effective member of this alliance, will take part in all fields, and also in the effort at cooperation, assistance, and support for changes in the Eastern bloc. I have no doubt about this.

[de Sousa] But will there be a possibility of allocating new missions or tasks?

[Woerner] No; right now I have no specific idea about this.

[de Sousa] In conclusion, what are your hopes for the next NATO summit, scheduled for the end of May, here in Brussels?

[Woerner] I hope that, in the first place, the summit will agree on global concepts, but the greatest hope I have is that we will be able to send an important political message about the future, both in the direction of the Eastern bloc and to our own public, containing our view of and our viewpoints on the shape of Europe and this alliance in the next decade, and also full information about the way in which we intend to cooperate and to promote further changes.

[de Sousa] And as a result of that change, will it be possible in the near future—perhaps in a few years' time—to accept a friendship visit by Gorbachev to NATO headquarters?

[Woerner] (Laughs) I am no prophet. Gorbachev is visiting several member states, and many Western leaders have gone to the Soviet Union. The issue is not a visit to NATO headquarters...but an improvement in East-West relations and the introduction of further changes in the Soviet Union in the direction of a free and pluralist society, with guarantees of human rights for its own population.

AUSTRIA

FRG, Austrian Firms Reported To Build Rocket Laboratory in Iraq

52002421 Vienna PROFIL in German
20 Mar 89 pp 36-38

[Article by Alan George London and Herbert Lansinger: "Rocket Merry-Go-Round"]

[Text] Austrian and German firms are building a research center in Iraq. The list of suppliers and testimony by witnesses indicate that the facility under construction is a highly specialized rocket laboratory.

Under the burning desert sun perspiring men were running as hard as they could. The runners were circling a closed-off area near the Iraqi university town of Mosul about 350 km north of Baghdad. The date was 1 May 1987.

The runners, most of them workers from Germany and Austria, had been brought to Mosul to build a research and technology center there. As part of the 1 May festivities, the German-Austrian project management had organized a cross-country race around the construction site. The winning time was 26 minutes.

The construction site itself, guarded by Iraqi militiamen posted on watchtowers and using TV cameras, is not run like a sports center but like a military camp.

One eyewitness¹ reports that Mercedes 4-wheel drive vehicles with radar equipment mounted on their roofs are constantly on patrol among the different buildings. A completely soundproof "listening room" has been built

by Siemens to pick up radio signals. There is a 120-meter-long underground firing tunnel about 4 meters in diameter. It has reinforced lead walls and is panelled with egg carton-like, soundproof material.

Our witness also tells of wind tunnels about 12 meters long and 2 meters in diameter inside which speeds of of mach 3 can be simulated. Video cameras are used to record the behavior of the tested objects. The technical personnel directs the tests from computer control rooms located behind bulletproof glass.

In the southwest corner of the site there is a row of 10-meter-high, squat concrete towers or "resistance structures." Three of the walls and the slanted roof have been reinforced in order to withstand extremely strong, sudden shock waves. Only one of the walls is made of wood. Whenever an explosion is set off inside the tower, it blasts away this part of the structure which can always be rebuilt.

Some of the buildings contain huge drilling and milling machines equipped with laser technology which enables them to perform precision work down to one-tenth of a millimeter. At the same time, this equipment can be used to produce hollow objects several meters long.

Another former worker on the Mosul project says there was talk on repeated occasions of problems in obtaining a gyro-controlled guidance system "for something."

A German-Austrian consortium of firms was given the job of managing the overall project which goes by the name of SAAD 16 by the Iraqi Government 4 years ago.

The general contractor responsible for the construction of the buildings and the necessary infrastructure is Consultco, a Vienna planning firm, 50 percent of which is owned by Girozentrale (GZ) and the remaining 50 by four Vienna civil engineering firms.

Consultco divided the construction work among dozens of Austrian subcontractors, e.g., the Graz construction firm of Ast, the plumbing and airconditioning firm of Swatek & Cerny or the CA [Credit Anstalt] owned firm of Hutter & Schranz².

Walter Bleyer, Consultco's managing director, says that the firm has "nothing to do with the technical equipment."

Responsibility for the technical side of the project rests with Gildemeister Projecta, a planning firm in Bielefeld, West Germany. The main supplier of technology, however, is Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm (MBB), the German arms concern—and Gildemeister is under contract to MBB.

The total value of the Austrian contract which originally amounted to 1.6 billion schillings has increased substantially in the meantime due to delays and project modifications.

The overall cost of SAAD 16 is likely to be a great deal more than 10 billion schillings.

Officially, the installation is termed a purely civilian research center associated with Mosul University. On 20 August 1985, Gildemeister applied to the FRG Federal Agency for Trade and Industry for a "negative certificate" stating that the firm did not require a special export license for its part of the project. Under the heading "detailed list of materials" the firm listed "machines and electrical equipment; control, metering and testing equipment for a research, development, and training institute comprising of eight main departments. Codename: SAAD 16."

But Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, which has long suspected that SAAD 16 is really a primarily military research center planted news items to that effect, e.g., in the 6 February 1989 issue of MIDEAST MARKET, the FINANCIAL TIMES information service. According to that particular item, SAAD 16 represents the continuation of the so-called Condor 2 project originally restricted to Egypt and Argentina. The project goal is to develop an intermediate-range missile with a range of 1,000 km easily capable of delivering nuclear warheads to Tehran or Tel Aviv. The MIDEAST MARKET report last February stated that MBB was said to be involved in the project.

The documents and statements obtained by PROFIL not only confirm the fact that MBB, an armament concern specializing in air combat equipment, is supplying the main technology for the SAAD 16 project. They also confirm the suspicion (based among other things on the identity of the other suppliers) that Germans and Austrians have built a turnkey military development center for Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi dictator—which the participating firms vehemently deny.

What is more, [the PROFIL material also makes it clear that] a network of Swiss and Austrian small businesses and letterhead companies was used to sell hundreds of millions of schillings worth of military technology to various customers, including Iraq. Some of those involved in these deals included former MBB engineers and business executives who had already been responsible for procuring the necessary technology for the Argentinian-Egyptian Condor 2 missile project.

Europeans who work in Baghdad report that a plant is being built somewhere in northern Iraq which will some day produce the items presently being developed and tested in Mosul. The codename of this project is said to be DOT.

The know-how required for series production of the Iraqi intermediate-range missile would not be provided by the firms directly involved in the SAAD 16 project but by the Condor team via various dummy corporations.

The availability of bills of lading, telex traffic, and other documents makes it comparatively easy to gain an insight into the SAAD 16 project.

Gildemeister's internal monthly report, for example, lists Fritz Werner Ltd., a German industrial equipment firm, as one of the suppliers. DER SPIEGEL has reported that Werner Ltd., a state-owned arms manufacturer, has been supplying Iran with a wide variety of military items for years, including grenades, antiaircraft shells, panzerfausts. In its 31/87 issue, DER SPIEGEL reported that Werner Ltd. "even helped the Iranians set up a missile industry of their own" but only after having applied for and received "negative certificates" attesting to the use of the export goods for non-military purposes.

Werner Ltd. states that its shipment on behalf of Gildemeister via a non-affiliated distribution company consisted of one "universal drilling machine."

The roster of suppliers for the SAAD 16 project also includes Mauser, the well-known small arms manufacturer and the Hesse firm of Karl Kolb which is already under investigation for delivering poison gas components to Iraq.

Under contract to Gildemeister the Graz-based AVL Co. (according to its spokesman Irolt Killmann) manufactured "speed indicators, pressure meters and dynamometers as well as a weather station."

Aviatest, a German subsidiary of Rheinmetall, a concern by no means averse to dealing in arms, built two wind tunnels; VOeST supplied machine tools and Hewlett-Packard, the computer manufacturer, also made money on the Mosul project.

MBB, which is involved in the SAAD 16 project to the tune of 500 million schillings by its own admission, shipped an entire weather station to Mosul, complete with balloons, parachutes, air, wind and temperature measuring instruments and a radio station including the necessary software. (When Werner Ltd. provided the equipment for the Iranian "Semnan" rocket farm, DER SPIEGEL reports, the firm included spare parts for a radio station and for meteorological equipment in its offer.)

The (understandably incomplete) PROFIL documents do not provide any information concerning additional materials MBB may have supplied to the SAAD 16 project.

A handful of telexes merely state that MBB experts conducted comprehensive training courses in Munich in connection with the project.

Another training program, also arranged via telex, establishes a first connection between the Iraqi SAAD 16 project and the development of the Argentinian-Egyptian Condor 2 intermediate-range missile which heretofore had merely been the subject of unconfirmed reports by businessmen and intelligence agencies.

One item in the Gildemeister telex file lists Bowas Induplan Chemie, a Salzburg-based company with a staff of 55, as being responsible for Course 36.1-36.5, a seminar on explosives. The majority shareholder of Bowas Induplan which deals in chemical equipment is the Bohlen und Halbach family.

Helmut Raiser, a 62 year-old native Bavarian, was managing director and co-owner of Bowas until 1984. Raiser, for that matter, is at the center of a dense tangle of companies which keep switching names and which worked on the Condor project quite openly—at least initially.

In 1979, the then Argentinian military junta ordered the development of a weather reconnaissance rocket, designated as Condor 1. With the permission of the FRG Government MBB joined the project group which was officially registered as the Consen Co. in Zug, Switzerland.

A Salzburg firm which went by the name of Induplan Chemie at the time took part in the construction of the weather rocket. That same firm is now called Bowas Induplan. Peter Schwarz, the present managing director, says that the firm "supplied plans for parts of the propellant system" for the Condor 1 project.

At the Paris Air Show in 1985, the Argentinians presented the Condor 1A as a multipurpose rocket.

In the meantime, the Condor 2 project had long since been launched in cooperation with the Egyptian Government. Officially, the project goal still was to build a weather rocket and officially, MBB was still involved—as one of the Consen partners. The man at the helm of the Consen group was none other than Helmut Raiser, the former director of Bowas Induplan.

Less than 2 years ago when it had long since become clear that Condor 2 was to be turned into an intermediate-range missile usable for military purposes, FRG Government pressure forced MBB to withdraw from the project. Last August, STERN quoted Roland Mecklinger, MBB's board chairman, as saying that his firm withdrew from the project because it did not wish "to cooperate with people capable of setting the world on fire."

MBB itself quit the project; but MBB technical personnel, given lucrative contracts by Raiser, stayed on. Development of the deadly Condor 2 proceeded apace.

When Consen director Raiser left Bowas Induplan Chemie in Salzburg in 1984, the firm had already lost another staff member, its executive secretary Werner Schoeffel. Ludwig Aumayr, a technical expert, also quit his job with Bowas.

The three men stayed together. Aumayr is slated to take over as managing director of Delta Consult Studiengesellschaft [Study Group] Ltd., a firm established in Salzburg in 1984. Werner Schoeffel holds the job of executive secretary of that firm.

The trade register lists Ifat Corporation Ltd. of Zug, Switzerland as the majority shareholder of Delta Consult—and the man behind Ifat is Helmut Raiser.

On 22 September 1988, a new firm named Tencom Ltd. was entered in the trade register at picturesque Bad Aussee in Austria. Tencom's managing director and senior partner is Ludwig Aumayr; Werner Schoeffel is listed as executive secretary and Ms. Francine Painthiaux-Schmidt as assistant managing director. Hermann Schmidt, the lady's husband, was one of MBB's top technicians.

Similar configurations can be found in a firm which goes by the name of Gamma and in which Schoeffel also holds the executive secretary's post or in PBG-Projektbetreuung [Project Management] Ltd. located in Schoeffel's Bavarian domicile of Freising. PBG, for its part, is a junior partner of Delta Consult.

In terms of personnel all of these firms are connected to other companies (some since dissolved) in a variety of tax havens, e.g., Contech, Zug; Desintek, Zug; Matrix, Monaco; Consen Investment, Monaco.

Aumayr is also listed as executive secretary of Delta System, a firm registered in Salzburg. The managing directors of Delta System are Messrs. Adolf Hammer and Ekkehard Schrotz. Both men are former MBB engineers; both worked on the Condor project and Schrotz at least is one of the top executives of the Consen group of companies.

On 27 May 1988, Schrotz's car blew up in Monte Carlo. According to French police records, responsibility for the attack was claimed by "Guardians of Islam," an apparently Iranian group which accused Schrotz of having sold missiles to Iraq.

Following this attack which was reported by STERN last August, Schrotz went underground "at a secret location" according to the West German magazine. Schrotz has resurfaced as managing director of Delta System in Salzburg.

He is back together with the other gentlemen that make up the old Consen and Bowas group. "They will not let go of the project," one Consen insider says. "There is too much money in it."

According to Bowas director Schwarz, however, Bowas Induplan Chemie in its present configuration has nothing to do with the activities of its former staffers Raiser, Schoeffel, and Aumayr. The explosives seminar in Iraq was set up on the basis of a request by Gildemeister. "Since Bowas Induplan did not have an expert of its own on its payroll," says Schwarz, "the job was turned over to a free-lance expert."

Schoeffel and Raiser did not act as go-betweens, Schwarz says. Raiser himself has "no comment." And as for Schoeffel, he cannot see what his connection to missile deals might be. "Someone is staging a witch hunt," he says.

Footnotes

1. Name and address of the publication is known.
2. PROFIL 10/89 had erroneously related this undertaking to the Assmann-Group. In reality only the Hutter & Schrantz Bautechnik which does not have an interest in the SAAD Project was acquired from Emerich Assmann. The Hutter & Schrantz AG and Hutter & Schrantz Siebtechnik belong to CA-Konzern.

BELGIUM

75,000 in Brussels Protest Short-Range Missile Modernization

LD1604172489 Brussels Domestic Service
in French 1600 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Excerpt] There have been many people on the streets of Brussels throughout the afternoon—tens of thousands of Belgians, some even cite the figure 70,000—demanding that short-range missiles not be modernized. Willy Van der Vorst, you were at this demonstration. Is it really a very great success?

[Van der Vorst] Yes, indeed, Francois-Michel. You mentioned 70,000, but here they speak of 75,000 demonstrators. None of the organizers even dreamed of such a success for this afternoon's peace demonstration. In any case, 75,000 demonstrators is a superb success, beyond the matter of the figures themselves. It was a great success, and all the more so since everything proceeded calmly as the procession of demonstrators wound its way through musical groups and sandwich-sellers.

At the head of a primarily Flemish procession—with many organized groups following one after another: trade unions, youth associations, war veterans, religious groups, doctors, etc.—at the head, obviously, were women and politicians, both French- and Flemish-speakers, socialists, Christians, and members of the People's Union, alongside communists and ecologists. [passage omitted]

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Kohl Favors Talks on Soviets on SNF Issue

AU1404105389 Mainz ZDF Television Network
in German 1900 GMT 13 Apr 89

[Interview with Chancellor Helmut Kohl by Klaus Bresser and Klaus-Peter Siegloch in Bonn on 13 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

[Bresser] The topic short-range nuclear missiles: What do you favor—deployment, like the Americans and the British, or should they be eliminated?

[Kohl] First of all, you know as well as I do that we are just on the point of working out a joint concept for the NATO summit in May and this is not a question for a brief answer, which would be easy. What I have to do is to include German wishes in this overall concept, and the overall concept consists of two parts: First, NATO is strong and can guarantee peace and freedom, and because it is strong it is open toward negotiations. For the first time I see a real chance for negotiations, a chance we have not had so far. For 2 or 3 years we have had more chances in the Soviet Union, not least because of the changes made by Gorbachev. There was the first disarmament treaty in world history. It was only possible, however because we had deployed the missiles in 1983. There was no new glacial period as the Socialists predicted.

[Bresser] Will there be a new double-track decision now?

[Kohl] I do not think that this can be repeated in this way. But I think that we have to talk with the Soviets about it. I want a mandate for negotiations—not all in the West want this. I want it, and I want it to contain everything that still has to be settled: on the superpower level the issues of intercontinental missiles and START negotiations. This is very nice but it is not all that we want. We want the complete abolition of chemical weapons—they are completely dispensable. And if they do not come from the FRG, the American weapons will certainly come by the end of next year. [sentence as heard] But I want them to disappear completely.

Naturally, we want a drastic reduction of those weapons that are particularly oppressive to us—these are all weapons with a range of 0 to 500 km—and we want force reductions in the conventional area. The Soviets still have to do much in this field. [passage omitted]

Kohl Said To Be 'in Opposition' to Allies on SNF Modernization

AU1604154989 Hamburg *DIE WELT* in German
15 Apr 89 p 2

[Herbert Kremp article: "Kohl Changed His Mind"]

[Text] For the Federal chancellor to dissociate himself from the Western nuclear powers' tutelage may be one of the "liberating strikes." That is what his television statement on Thursday [13 April], that he is pursuing a mandate for negotiations on tactical nuclear weapons deployed in Europe, must mean. From the chancellor's mouth this is surprising. So far, Kohl had only used delaying tactics regarding the touchy issue of the introduction of longer-range Lance missiles (up to 500 km) and new air-based nuclear weapons (TASM, standoff weapons with a range of more than 400 km), by saying that no decision could be made before 1991-92 on the "production and deployment" of such weapons in the Federal Republic.

However, there had never been talk about a mandate of the alliance to hold negotiations with the Soviets. On the contrary—according to his advisers, Kohl intended to try and achieve a clear statement in the plan to be adopted at the NATO summit in May, to the effect that the alliance was ready to modernize weapons. He could have met the Americans and the British who demand the replacement of obsolete tactical nuclear weapons, on this line. The French should also be bewildered at the "mandate."

What made Kohl go into opposition to the allied nuclear powers? He is now moving in the certainly popular current of his Foreign Minister Genscher (together with the Free Democratic Party), Christian Democratic Union Secretary General Geissler whose position has been consolidated (and who only wants to have an "option" for weapons), and the national-conservative wing of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union (Dregger, Waigel), which considers shorter-range tactical nuclear weapons to be nothing but "self-deterrence."

Kohl is determined to risk disagreement in the alliance. He has thereby made a momentous decision that his outgoing Defense Minister Scholz has occasionally contradicted: Negotiations on nuclear weapons, that cannot be held within the framework of the Vienna conventional disarmament negotiations but were demanded by the Warsaw Pact earlier this week, will not lead to equal ceilings but to a third zero solution. However, so far Kohl was always vehemently opposed to a denuclearization in Europe—for well-founded reasons which apparently are no longer valid.

West German CP Demands Rejection of SNF Modernization

AU1804115289 East Berlin *NEUES DEUTSCHLAND*
in German 17 Apr 89 p 5

[Text] Duesseldorf (ADN)—Rolf Priemer, member of the Presidium and secretary of the Executive Committee of the German Communist Party [DKP], has demanded that the modernization of nuclear short-range missiles be clearly rejected by the Federal Government. At the fourth conference of the DKP Executive Committee in Duesseldorf on the weekend [15-16 April], he stated that it would be harmful and disastrous for the development of the political climate in Europe and the FRG's security if the government were to give in to U.S. pressure and be prepared to modernize these weapons. The chance offered by the latest Warsaw Pact proposal must be taken, the two military blocs must agree to mutually refrain from modernizing tactical nuclear weapons, and separate negotiations on their gradual reduction must be started. Since the Soviet Union has declared that it will refrain from modernizing its tactical nuclear weapons, NATO's decisions on modernization are even less justified than before.

Rolf Priemer, who presented the report of the Presidium and the DKP Executive Committee Secretariat, said that the appearance of neo-Nazi parties in the FRG is a danger that has to be taken seriously. It is the social injustice caused by the government's course and the spreading of moods hostile to foreigners that prepares the ground for such circles and creates a social and political climate in which neo-Nazi demagogy can develop and be effective. The task of actively starting the struggle against the upsurge of neo-Nazi parties and groups and using all opportunities to form alliances is an urgent one, he stated.

Press Surveyed on Debate over SNF Modernization

AU2004110389 Cologne *Deutschlandfunk Network*
in German 0505 GMT 20 Apr 89

[From the press review]

[Text] One of the topics discussed by the FRG press today is the government's security policy within the scope of the NATO overall strategy.

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU comments on the debate on the modernization of the Lance missiles: In principle, we say yes to a modernization of short-range nuclear weapons; however, a decision on their deployment only after the Bundestag elections, and at the same time, the development and production of a new weapon under U.S. supervision, and all this without a specific negotiation offer to the Soviet side. [sentence as received] If this is the direction—and unfortunately,

much indicates that it is—then the disabled are determining the speed, and Mikhail Gorbachev will have to ask himself whether common disarmament steps are at all possible with this alliance.

In the Duesseldorf daily RHEINISCHE POST we read: In addition to other problems, Stoltenberg will have to cope with the touchy problem of whether a new generation of short-range missiles will be deployed on German territory in the next decade. There is no doubt that the United States wants to have such new weapons and is already developing them, whereas the continental Europeans, in particular the Germans, are hesitant. In this case, rightly so. In contrast to the suspension of the extension of military service, this position is not election time posturing, but a wise line that Chancellor Kohl has pursued for months. He must insist on this line.

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE also views the discussions in the Chancellor's Office on this issue: It has been clear for a long time that Bonn intends to postpone an alliance decision on modernization until after the next Bundestag elections, and at the same time to urge NATO and the Warsaw Pact to resume, as soon as possible, negotiations on a reduction in these weapons. It seems that Genscher and the Free Democratic Party do not want to rule out a third zero solution as a possible negotiation result. However, this would at the very least overstrain the readiness for understanding and compromise of the Western nuclear powers, United States, Great Britain, and France.

Bonn Said 'Isolated' from Allies on SNF Modernization

AU2104102289 Hamburg DIE WELT in German
21 Apr 89 p 1

[Herbert Kremp editorial: "Bonn Is Getting Isolated"]

[Text] There have been many crises within NATO. However, now the Western nuclear powers and the Federal Republic are following different roads on a crucial security policy issue. The decision to postpone the modernization of tactical nuclear weapons and instead to demand negotiations with Moscow, seriously calls the policy of war prevention into question.

Under the covert direction of its foreign minister, the government is moving into an almost incalculable off-side position. The chancellor is following in this wake. When he saw Manfred Woerner off to Brussels, he promised a favorable decision on the modernization issue. He presented (and still presents) himself as an opponent of the third zero solution. However, negotiations on nuclear weapons, before clear successes have been achieved in Vienna in conventional disarmament talks, will inevitably create a trend in this direction.

Kohl is perfectly aware of this, but he believes that he must yield to the populist imperative of his party and the coalition. The decision is not based on security policy

and strategic reasons. It represents a maneuver of retreat of an enterprise that is in a bad state and squanders away assets to curry favor with a wrongly assessed "public." However, obvious maneuvers of this kind have never been rewarded.

The Western powers will not agree to hold new negotiations on nuclear weapons at this point. Kohl is facing defeat within NATO. This became clear at the defense ministers' meeting. Perhaps he will muster the courage at the eleventh hour to avert harm from the alliance.

Coalition Parties Discuss Policy on SNF Modernization

LD2104093389 Hamburg DPA in German
0819 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Text] The round of coalition talks held late last night until early this morning among the Christian Democratic Union [CDU], the Christian Social Union, and the Free Democratic Party [FDP] resulted in agreement on their attitude toward short-range nuclear weapons. As a Foreign Ministry spokesman announced, the talks chaired by Ministers Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP) and Wolfgang Schaueble (CDU) worked out a joint stance which also deals with the controversial problem of modernization. CDU circles expressed their satisfaction at the conclusion of the difficult round of talks.

As the spokesman stressed, the results of the night session at the Federal Chancellory are to be presented today to the coalition party chairmen, who did not participate, and the parliamentary groups and "their acceptance is to be recommended." Thus the FRG has now established its attitude, which is to be incorporated in the comprehensive concept on disarmament for NATO at the alliance summit at the end of May in Brussels.

At the moment details are being kept secret. Apparently the document contains already well-known view of the federal government to the effects that there is no need to decide about modernizing short-range missiles before 1992.

Further on FRG Government Discussion over SNF Modernization

Text of Coalition Paper

AU2404111189 Hamburg DIE WELT in German
24 Apr 89 p 8

["Co." report: "In 1992 a Decision Will Be Made in Light of the Development"]

[Text] Bonn—In their joint position paper on the overall NATO concept and on missile modernization, the Bonn coalition partners—the Christian Democratic Union, the Christian Social Union, and the Free Democratic Party—have expressly said yes to the nuclear component of deterrence. They are convinced that there is "no

alternative, at least no foreseeable one" to it. This is stated in the text of the paper which came to light yesterday and has been called authentic by well-informed sources:

1. The FRG Government expresses its support for the statement of the alliance that there is no alternative—at least no foreseeable one—to the concept of preventing war through deterrence on the basis of a suitable composition of appropriate and effective nuclear and conventional armed forces. Under the circumstances, ground-based, sea-based, and air-based systems of nuclear forces are also necessary in Europe.

2. The development of a follow-up system for the Lance short-range missile is a national decision of the United States.

3. Within the framework of the overall concept for arms control and disarmament, the alliance gives the assignment for the speedy start of negotiations on short-range nuclear missiles with the goal of equal upper limits at a low level, which was formulated by the alliance in Reykjavik in 1987 and in Brussels in 1988.

4. For nuclear artillery ammunition, too, an assignment for negotiations with the goal of equal upper limits at a drastically reduced level is included in the overall concept.

5. In 1992 the alliance will decide—in the light of the political and security-political development, in particular taking into consideration the results of the disarmament negotiations—whether in 1996 the introduction into the alliance of a Lance follow-up system and thus production and deployment are necessary or not. For this it is important whether it will be possible

—to create greater security at a lower level of nuclear and conventional armed forces as a whole; —to conclude binding agreements with the Warsaw Pact on eliminating the capability for surprise attacks and for large-scale attacks;

—to create with corresponding agreements a higher degree of mutual trust on the basis of increased transparency and predictability of military behavior.

Foreign Minister Genscher Views Washington Talks

AU2304180589 Mainz ZDF Television Network
in German 1700 GMT 23 Apr 89

[Interview with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher by Klaus Walter in Bonn on 23 April—recorded]

[Text] [Walter] Mr Minister, tomorrow you are going to Washington. The German position concerning short-range missiles has been worked out. Now how do you

want to convince the Americans, after Washington at the beginning of the week stated that negotiations with the Soviets about short-range missiles are out of the question for the time being?

[Genscher] Naturally, the decision will be made within the alliance, but a few weeks ago the U.S. secretary of defense was here and now colleague Stoltenberg and I are going to Washington in order to continue the talks. We do not want anything other than what the alliance decided as early as in Reykjavik in 1987 and also in Brussels in 1988, namely that short-range missiles are also to be included in negotiations. We live in a time in which, thank God, security problems are not being settled by an arms race and there is the opportunity for negotiations, which we naturally want to seize.

[Walter] However, the Americans say no. Therefore, talks have to be held with the Americans first.

[Genscher] I think that we will discuss this question—as is necessary and correct among allies and friends—in order to then find a common position within the alliance. We know that, like us, the large majority of the European allies stand for what we planned in the past, that is, negotiations.

[Walter] However, criticism has already been reported from London. After the long tug-of-war about the German position, does Bonn not place itself in danger of again becoming an outsider within NATO with this position that has now been found?

[Genscher] No, this is certainly not the case when one supports what the alliance has planned—also with U.S. and British approval—and, above all, when most allies support this position, too.

Sees Allied Support

LD2304192189 Hamburg DPA in German
1755 GMT 23 Apr 89

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Genscher has stressed that the issue of negotiations [on short-range missiles] must now be discussed among the allies, "in order to then find the shared position within the alliance". In an interview on the Today program of the Second German television (ZDF) on Sunday [23 April] evening, Genscher pointed out "that like us, the European allies quite overwhelmingly stand by what we earlier set our sights on, namely negotiations".

He denied that there was any danger that Bonn's position could put it out of line with NATO. "After all, we want nothing other than what the alliance decided on in Reykjavik in 1987, and also in Brussels in 1988, namely that there should be negotiations on short-range weapons as well."

Genscher, Stoltenberg To Go to Washington 24 Apr
LD2104163189 Hamburg DPA in German
1449 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Bonn (DPA)—The CDU/CSU-FDP coalition last night agreed on a compromise on the question of short-range missiles which evidently calls for serious talks with the U.S. Administration. After a 30-minute telephone conversation between Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Bush at 0900 [0800 GMT] a trip by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP) and defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg (CDU) to Washington on Monday [24 April] was announced unexpectedly in Bonn.

The new government spokesman Hans Klein had asked journalists to come to the Chancellery at 30 minutes' notice and announced the chancellor's contact with Bush. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry spokesman Juergen Chrobog, stressed afterward that Genscher and Kohl had already been considering a trip to Washington in close consultation since yesterday. It was then definitely on when Kohl telephoned Bush and Genscher telephoned his U.S. counterpart James Baker at the same time and agreed on the schedule. The two German ministers plan to be in Washington only a few hours and intend to return to Bonn Monday afternoon.

In a long all-night session late Thursday, the coalition partners—without the party chairmen—had put on paper a compromise which is to deal with the NATO comprehensive concept for disarmament and arms control. The indications are that the content contradicts the U.S. and the British stance. The Bonn coalition partners have evidently stipulated renunciation of a decision on modernization at least until 1992 and have demanded speedy negotiations on reducing short-range missiles on both sides.

Government spokesman Klein announced that a leading CDU/CSU body had expressly endorsed the result Friday midday. The outcome was not welcomed as unequivocally by FDP circles. The deputy spokesman, Norbert Schaefer, described it as a "basis for decision." It appears that the federal chancellor wants to announce the details himself Thursday in his government statement to the Bundestag.

Press Views Visit

AU2404113589 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network
in German 0505 GMT 24 Apr 89

[From the press review]

[Text] KOELNISCHE RUNDSCHAU deals with the visit of FRG Foreign Minister Genscher and new Defense Minister Stoltenberg to the United States to explain the line of the coalition concerning the issue of

missile modernization. We read: Today in Washington the two politicians want to convince the Americans of how important it is to negotiate with the Soviet Union on the reduction of short-range missiles. A difficult mission. The Americans want to talk to Moscow only if Bonn is willing to agree to a speedy modernization of the U.S. Lance missiles. Bonn, however, refuses to agree. Actually, there have never been such different positions in NATO. It would be fatal if this gap were to widen even more. It would be even more fatal if the superpowers were to widen again the distance between them in the field of disarmament, KOELNISCHE RUNDSCHAU says.

NUERNBERGER NACHRICHTEN state: Of course, it would be supremely reasonable to also attack the potential for the limited self-destruction in the center of the old continent now, even though neither the Americans nor the British like this. However, in particular because of this resistance within the alliance, the power of conviction of Bonn's arguments is suffering from the fact that they are the result of hurried improvisation. The chancellor had tried to avoid a clear decision in favor of his foreign minister for such a long time that in the end it was necessary to put his entire policy under the slogan "each one for himself!" This was the view of NUERNBERGER NACHRICHTEN.

DIE WELT on FRG Position

AU2204195489 Hamburg DIE WELT in German
22-23 Apr 89 p 1

["Co./rmc." report: "Lance Modernization Postponed; Genscher Able To Enforce His View"]

[Text] Bonn—On Monday [24 April] Foreign Minister Genscher and Defense Minister Stoltenberg will fly to Washington in order to discuss Bonn's position on the overall NATO concept and on the modernization of short-range nuclear missiles with the U.S. Administration. This was unexpectedly announced by Hans Klein, the newly appointed government spokesman, yesterday afternoon after leading politicians of the Christian Democratic Union [CDU], the Christian Social Union [CSU], and the Free Democratic Party [FDP] had agreed on a joint line on Thursday evening [20 April].

Yesterday Chancellor Kohl briefed U.S. President Bush on this in an—according to Klein—"intensive, very understanding, and friendly" telephone conversation. At the same time, the NATO partners in Brussels were briefed.

Klein stated that the German position has now been worked out. He did not want to give any details. According to information available to DIE WELT, the agreement of the coalition particularly applies to two central issues:

- The option for a modernization of the short-range Lance missiles is to be kept open until 1991-92. This means that in only 2 to 3 years the decision is to be made as to whether and to what extent modernized missiles will be deployed in the FRG.
- The FRG Government desires the speedy start of negotiations on a reduction of U.S. and Soviet short-range missiles with the goal of equal upper limits.

These demands—which essentially correspond to Genscher's positions, which Kohl has adopted as his own for some time—are to be reflected in the chancellor's government statement that is scheduled for next Thursday [27 April]. It is expected that the chancellor will also repeat that the principle of nuclear deterrence is still valid and that he will speak against a "third zero-option." According to Klein, it is possible that the coalition partners will again discuss the concept after Genscher's and Stoltenberg's return from Washington.

Participants in the meeting on Thursday evening were from the CDU/CSU side Ministers Stoltenberg, Schaeuble, and Zimmermann, Bundestag Group Chairman Dregger, his deputy Ruehe, and Deputy Geiger; present from the FDP side were Ministers Genscher and Moellmann.

Between the CSU and the FDP there were in particular differences at first about whether a "third zero-option" should also be excluded in future. This contentious issue now seems to have been overcome. The desire for "speedy" negotiations on short-range missiles also seems to be a compromise. Genscher had spoken in favor of immediate negotiations—parallel to the Vienna negotiations on conventional disarmament.

At the Brussels conference of the NATO defense ministers it had become clear that in particular the United States and Great Britain categorically reject negotiations on a reduction of short-range missiles.

Defense Ministry Denies That 'Patriot' Is Anti-Missile Weapon

LD1804171189 Hamburg DPA in German 1602 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The "Patriot" anti-aircraft missiles planned in the Federal Republic are to receive improved warheads. Bonn and Washington intend to agree shortly on a relevant research program, the Defense Ministry stated today. At the same time it rejected the report that Bonn was thus participating in the development of an "anti-missile missile."

According to the Defense Ministry, research is to be carried out to see whether fighting targets with the "patriot" under the influence of electronic interference and the effect against targets with a very low radar echo can be improved. A ministry spokesman stressed that not only missiles but also modern military aircraft of

appropriate design have a low radar echo. The "Patriot" missiles already have a "limited capability" in defending position against attacking tactical missiles.

Previously the SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] politician Carsten Voigt had said, in reference to a report in the American journal "DEFENSE NEWS," that the "Patriot" missiles should be put in the position, through numerous improvements, to be able to destroy tactical and cruise missiles. It is a question of the further development of the "Patriot" to one of the "Patriot growth" missiles planned by the United States. This, Voigt said, would be "a step in the direction to a European SDI program," and an insidious undermining of the ABM Treaty.

However the Defense Ministry stressed that the "Patriot growth" program is a future U.S. project on which Bonn has not conducted any negotiations and for which there are no plans, either. The assertion that the Federal Government wishes to sign a government agreement on a "Patriot growth" program is "false."

Press Sees 'Rift' with Allies NATO Planning Group Session

AU2104142089 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0505 GMT 21 Apr 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The FRG press today comments on the recent consultations of the NATO planning group in Brussels. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE writes: The FRG Government's abandonment of essential positions of its security policy—the abandoning of the extension of military service, opposition to NATO's short-range nuclear missiles—prompted an immediate reaction in the Belgian capital. The defense ministers of the United States and Great Britain—the two powers that continue to form the backbone of NATO—have clearly outlined their positions in their statements. By starting with the modernization and by voicing strong opposition to disarmament negotiations on short-range missiles, they have begun to challenge Bonn's course. Officials in Washington and London have apparently abandoned hope that the chancellor will keep his word and win over his foreign minister for modernization.

BRAUNSCHWEIGER ZEITUNG states: The rift between the FRG on the one hand and the United States and Britain on the other has become so obvious that the concluding communique, which contains the statement that the alliance will and must modernize its short-range missiles because the Soviet Union is still far from real disarmament in Europe, which means that Western security can only be guaranteed through its own efforts, sounds rather embarrassing. Such rational arguments have long ceased to be vote-winners in the FRG, particularly since Mikhail Gorbachev has launched his charm

offensive and since the opposition, in a mixture of opportunism and naivety, has jumped on this wagon that is very popular with the voters.

FLENSBURGER TAGBLATT stresses: Now it is about time for Bonn to define precisely the government's security-political standpoint and to defend it vigorously. Glancing at the next elections and flirting with populist idling do not pay off. Serious policy cannot be based on the slogan: Please wash me but do not make me wet. Besides many problems connected with the Bundeswehr, the new Defense Minister Stoltenberg will also be facing difficult talks within the alliance. May his efforts to achieve more clarity be successful.

ITALY

Inspectors To View Soviet Army Exercises Under CDE Accords

LD1504222389 Rome Domestic Service in Italian
2030 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] A mission to the USSR by a team of inspectors of the Italian Armed Forces, whose job it is to carry out an inspection of important superpower exercises now under way in the Moscow district, has begun. This is the first mission which our country is carrying out on the basis of the accords signed in Stockholm in 1986 by the 35 countries which took part in the CSCE. The agreement was signed to improve the monitoring of military activity through special confidence and security measures.

PORTUGAL

Defense Minister Backs NATO Nuclear Modernization

LD2004200489 Lisbon Radio Renascenca
in Portuguese to Europe 1800 GMT 20 Apr 89

[Text] Portuguese Defense Minister Eurico de Melo stated today that Portugal admits the possibility of nuclear weapons being installed on its territory, but added that he hoped the measure would not be necessary. Speaking in Brussels to Portuguese journalists at the end of the 2-day meeting of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group, Eurico de Melo stated that, quote: As NATO founding members we do not shirk our responsibilities, because the Atlantic Alliance is a sharing of risks, not just a sharing of benefits, unquote.

The Portuguese minister said he has information that the USSR has been modernizing its nuclear armaments, and therefore he believes that NATO too must modernize its nuclear weapons to preserve the balance of forces that has kept the peace in the last 40 years.

Prime Minister: NATO Nuclear Deployments in Portugal 'Not Envisioned'

LD2104130889 Lisbon International Service
in Portuguese 0600 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Text] Speaking in Brussels, the Portuguese defense minister said that Portugal does not rule out the possibility of nuclear weapons being deployed on its territory but hopes that such a step will not be necessary. Asked to comment on this, the prime minister stated:

[Begin Cavaco Silva recording] Portugal is a NATO member. No deployment of nuclear weapons is envisioned in Portugal, but our country has never rejected NATO nuclear weapons. Never. Deployment is not envisioned but we take the view that nuclear weapons are part and parcel of NATO's deterrence strategy. However, there are no nuclear weapons in Portugal and their deployment here is not envisioned. [end recording]

TURKEY

Defense Minister Giray Affirms Nuclear Commitments to NATO

TA2004100189 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1800 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Defense Minister Safa Giray has said that taking into consideration its sensitive geopolitical location, Turkey will continue to carry out its present nuclear commitments. Ufuk Tuncu reports from Brussels:

Giray briefed the press today on the Turkish stand on nuclear arms expressed at the Nuclear Planning Group's meetings being held at NATO headquarters in Brussels. He said that Turkey might join the resolution in principle to be taken by the alliance in connection with the modernization of short-range nuclear arms. He added that this does not necessarily mean that Turkey will undertake any additional nuclear commitments.

Pointing out that Turkey is actively participating in the arms control process, Giray said that nuclear arms have a significant place in deterrent strategies aimed at preventing wars.

He said that during the meetings he also explained Turkish views regarding the report by the NATO European Allied Forces commander on the alliance's nuclear force in the future. He said that he criticized the fact that although the report envisions a significant reduction of forces in central Europe, it does not include the necessary reductions on the southern flank. He added that he called for this point to be rectified during the discussions on the report that will be conducted in the coming months.

Foreign Ministry: No Elimination of Short-Range Nuclear Weapons

TA1904172389 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish
1520 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Ankara (AA)—Foreign Ministry spokesman Ambassador Inal Batu has said that the complete elimination of short-range nuclear weapons, which make a significant contribution to NATO strategy, is not being considered.

During his weekly news conference today, Ambassador Batu was asked to comment on the Warsaw Pact's proposal to bring about mutual reductions in short-range nuclear weapons. He said: "In principle Turkey takes a positive approach to the proposals that NATO and the Warsaw Pact reduce their short-range nuclear weapons and establish a balance at lower levels."

Batu stressed, however, that the Warsaw Pact is superior to NATO when it comes to this type of weapon, and that the alliance must carefully study proposals coming from the other side regarding these weapons.

Batu said: "Furthermore, we believe that the alliance must first conclude the work it has been doing within the framework of conceptual disarmament. Naturally, the complete elimination of short-range nuclear weapons, which make a significant contribution to the strategy of the alliance, is not being considered. Another issue which is important for us is consideration, in case the alliance makes a decision on this issue, of the weaknesses of the southern area—which includes our country as well—in the field of conventional defense. Priority must be given to completing the modernization of conventional weapons."

Defense Minister Giray on NATO Nuclear Planning Group Session

TA2104150889 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1400 GMT 21 Apr 89

[Text] National Defense Minister Safa Giray has declared that Turkey does not want to assume additional nuclear responsibilities. Giray returned to Turkey today after attending the NATO Nuclear Planning Group meeting held in Brussels.

In a statement at Ankara Esenboga Airport, Giray said that the nuclear weapons situation of the NATO command was reviewed and the needs of the alliance were discussed during the meeting. Giray added that the deliberations focused on the reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe, but no such reduction is envisaged for the southern flank. He noted that during the meeting he pointed out that this is an imbalance and should be reassessed. Giray said: We stressed during the meeting that the nuclear force in Turkey is more than sufficient, and that we do not want to assume additional commitments in the future.

Pointing out that Turkey may support NATO's decision on the modernization of conventional weapons, Giray remarked that the ministers who attended the meeting were not in favor of the zero option concerning nuclear weapons. He recalled that the Soviet Union is more advanced than NATO in the field of nuclear weapons, adding that it would be more beneficial to conduct talks on the reduction of nuclear weapons once a balance has been achieved between the two sides. The defense minister remarked, however, that Turkey believes that the Soviet appeal on this subject must be assessed.

UNITED KINGDOM

Plan To Develop Nuclear Missile With France Shelved

52500027 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 19 Mar 89 p 7

[Article by Simon O'Dwyer-Russell]

[Text] Britain has shelved plans to develop an air-launched nuclear missile jointly with France after failure to agree on political and technical details as well as costs.

President Mitterrand was deterred from going along with the Euro-missile project by Mrs Thatcher's strong desire to involve the United States.

The collapse of the talks will come as a blow to Mrs Thatcher, who had hoped that France's involvement in the project would draw the French more firmly into NATO's military structure.

She is anxious to secure agreement on a new weapon because of the near-obsolence of the RAF's free-fall nuclear bombs and the unlikelihood of West Germany's supporting NATO's plans to modernize the Alliance's force of Lance short-range nuclear missiles.

Although Ministers will not decide how to replace the WE-177 free-fall bombs until the end of the year, Britain will now concentrate on talks with the United States. This could lead to cooperation in developing the new SRAM-2 missile, now on the drawing-board at the Pentagon.

One Defence Ministry official said: "The French deal is now accepted in Whitehall to be dead in the water. We are now looking to Washington for the answer."

Britain and France remain committed to the establishment of closer nuclear links and talks on nuclear doctrine and targeting policy between Mr Younger, Defence Secretary, and his French counterpart, M Jean-Pierre Chevènement, will continue.

France already has an air-launched nuclear missile called ASMP, but Britain was anxious to develop a longer-range and more accurate weapon to enter service in the late 1990s.

Officials on both sides of the Channel are determined not to let the failure of the Euro-missile project interfere with the drive towards closer Anglo-French nuclear cooperation, a drive which one Defence Ministry source described as "perhaps the most important single development in European NATO affairs in the past three years".

Until recently, established thinking on NATO nuclear affairs saw Britain's interpretation of "flexible response" to be incompatible with France's declared nuclear strategy of launching a nuclear strike against an aggressor after a "final warning".

Now, however, Defence Ministry officials believe there is considerable scope for these strategies to be more closely aligned.

Defense Secretary Younger Warns West Not To Weaken Defenses

*LD1704215489 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 2109 GMT 17 Apr 89*

[By Chris Moncrieff, PRESS ASSOCIATION chief political correspondent]

[Text] The West must not weaken its defences "for the sake of an easy accommodation with the Soviet Union," Defense Secretary George Younger warned today.

Mr Younger said that despite President Gorbachev's efforts to reform the Soviet Union, it would be "most unwise" of the West to allow its defences to run down and become obsolescent without tangible guarantees for the future.

He told the foreign affairs forum at the Carlton Club in London: "Soviet willingness to negotiate verifiable arms control agreements is a direct consequence of NATO maintaining its defences and refusing to bargain away security in the face of words and promises."

Mr Younger said: "The determination of the Conservative government, along with our allies in NATO, has persuaded the Soviets to begin to reduce their massive superiority in conventional forces.

"Until the Soviet superiority in conventional forces has been removed along with a chemical weapons stockpile several times larger than the 50,000 tonnes admitted by President Gorbachev, it only makes sense to keep all our forces up to date, including where necessary our short-range nuclear forces."

He went on: "We believe in nuclear deterrence. We want a war-free Europe not a nuclear-free Europe. And I can think of no higher moral purpose than that in terms of international relations and the maintenance of peace.

"Nuclear deterrence has given us peace and security for the past 40 years. Let us not jeopardise that for the sake of an easy accommodation with the Soviet Union."

Editorial Says 'Credible Defense' Requires Nuclear Arms

*PM1804150689 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
in English 18 Apr 89 p 18*

[Editorial: "NATO Division"]

[Text] A dangerous gap is threatening to open between the United States and British governments over the modernisation of Nato's short-range nuclear weapons in Europe. Lance, the only land-based nuclear delivery system left to the Supreme Allied commander after the INF treaty, will be come officially obsolete in 1995. If his conventional forces are to present a credible defence to the Warsaw Pact, a successor to Lance must soon be found. Chancellor Kohl's Government, which must accept the new weapon on its territory, is dragging its heels over modernisation since the German electorate seems increasingly ready to accept at face value Mr Gorbachev's assurances of his commitment to disarmament. The Prime Minister, who rightly perceives the danger of weakening NATO's tested strategy of supporting conventional forces with a local nuclear guarantee before Mr Gorbachev has made good his promises, has consistently reminded Chancellor Kohl of his short-sightedness. Thus far her policy has been that of the United States also. Now it appears that President Bush and his new Pentagon team have judged it unpolitic to put the Germans under pressure, at least insofar as demanding a public commitment to modernisation goes.

Washington appears to believe that it can win compensation for a postponement of the Lance replacement programme by extracting concessions from the Soviet Union on the deployment of other nuclear systems, notably the mobile SS-18 missile. It is also apparently now ready to indulge Chancellor Kohl in his domestic difficulties to the extent of persuading Congress to vote funds for a Lance successor without extracting the Germans' consent to its basing on their soil. These policy calculations may carry weight in Washington. They leave the European dimension out of view. Whatever the attitude of West Germany and the smaller NATO states, the British are committed to the conviction that the Supreme Allied commander should control a complement of nuclear weapons in Europe. If the United States prevaricates, it is likely to drive Britain, perhaps in co-operation with France, to undertake nuclear substitution measures of its own. That development would cause the merging divisions within the Alliance to widen. It should be an early priority of President Bush's administration to heal the division by offering Britain concrete

assurances of its determination to maintain NATO's nuclear capability in Europe.

NATO Statement 'Falls Short of Thatcher Demand on SNF Modernization

LD2004135289 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1324 GMT 20 Apr 89

[By Geoff Meade, PRESS ASSOCIATION, in Brussels]

[Text] NATO's nuclear forces must be kept up to date "where necessary", alliance defence ministers declared today. But their stand has fallen far short of Mrs Thatcher's demands for an immediate fixed timetable for modernising short-range weapons based in West Germany.

NATO's Nuclear Planning Group, which comprises defence ministers from member countries, today released a statement after two days of talks in Brussels. It simply repeats earlier pledges made by the ministers, despite final efforts by British Defence Secretary George Younger for a deeper commitment.

The British Government has had to accept what one official called "political realities" in the form of the West German elections next year. Chancellor Kohl was no position to agree to a longer range replacement for the Lance nuclear missile because of the pending elections, the official said. Mrs Thatcher has temporarily abandoned any hope of any firmer commitment to modernising the Lance system.

The statement today also expressed NATO's determination to ensure that the alliance possessed "diversified, survivable and operationally flexible nuclear forces across the entire spectrum". It welcomed a report by NATO chiefs on nuclear weapons requirements which

suggested that significant reductions could still be made in NATO's nuclear defence needs in Europe. The study, now being considered by NATO governments, will be an important contribution to future decisions on individual nuclear systems, said the statement.

The aim of the two-day meeting was to prepare the ground for next month's summit of NATO nation leaders.

Mr Younger played down the NATO decision not to fix a timetable for modernising Europe's short-range nuclear weapons. He welcomed today's statement for reaffirming the general NATO strategy of maintaining a mix of nuclear and conventional weapons. "I think that is what we very badly needed to do," he said. He claimed satisfaction with the repeated commitment by the allies to keep nuclear forces "up to date".

Mr Younger said there was in fact no need at the moment to fix a timetable for modernisation. "It is clear that is not necessary now. We have not attempted to decide when that decision will become necessary." He denied suggestions the UK was compensating for the lack of a modernisation programme by agreeing to take new short-range nuclear weapons on British soil, at Upper Heyford and Lakenheath. The government is considering deploying new F1-11 and F-15e bombers equipped with American-made missiles.

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney rejected suggestions of a split in the alliance over the modification of the Lance system. He said the meeting had not been designed to take decisions. It was considering the whole question of NATO's future nuclear needs and studying the reports on nuclear weapons requirement.

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